【Chapter XXVI】Assault

Chapter XXVI

Assault

This should be about enough; I don't want to tire myself out needlessly.

UWAH!

RAGE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AND GET FAMOUS FOR ME.
...sigh...
PLOP

FUH!
ズギ
hee...
fuh
bakoh

fuh
fuh

6

Fuuh
Remember this:
Fuuh
Yo... you bastards come from Jin...!?

I am 'Shut Hell.'
fuuh
fuuh
The evil spirit that's going to gobble you up.
fuuh

Are...
Are you saying he came back to life!?
The villain 'Shut Hell'...? That bandit is supposed to be dead.
I heard he was caught and hung at Xingqing.

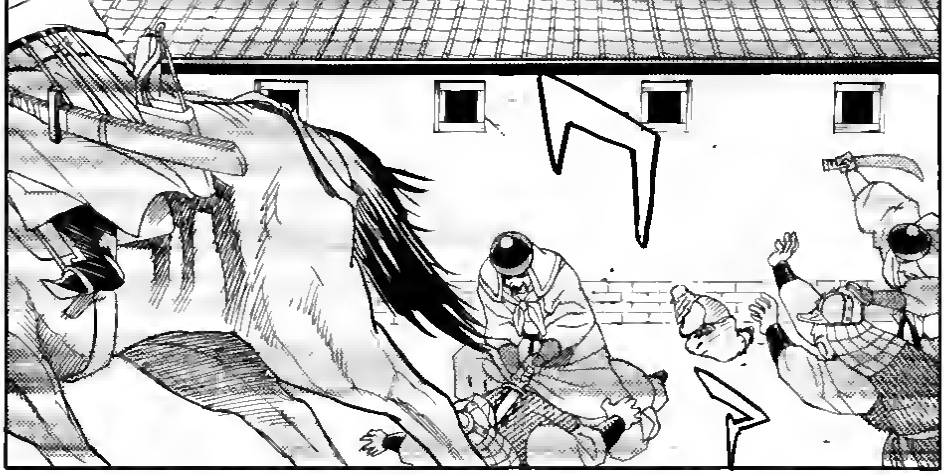
The immortal man: that's 'Shut Hell.'
U...
UWA-AAAA
AAAH!

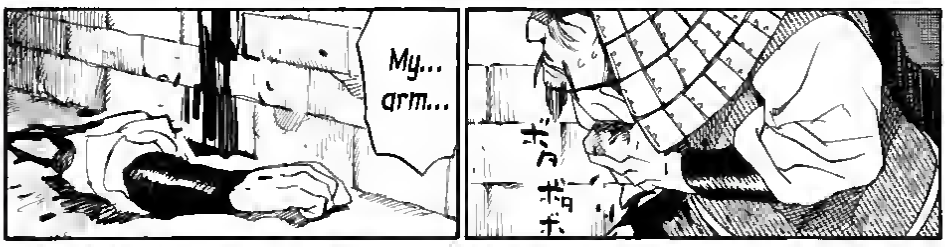
So much for the mighty Mongol army—
Looks like they're nothing if they don't have time to grab their horses and bows!

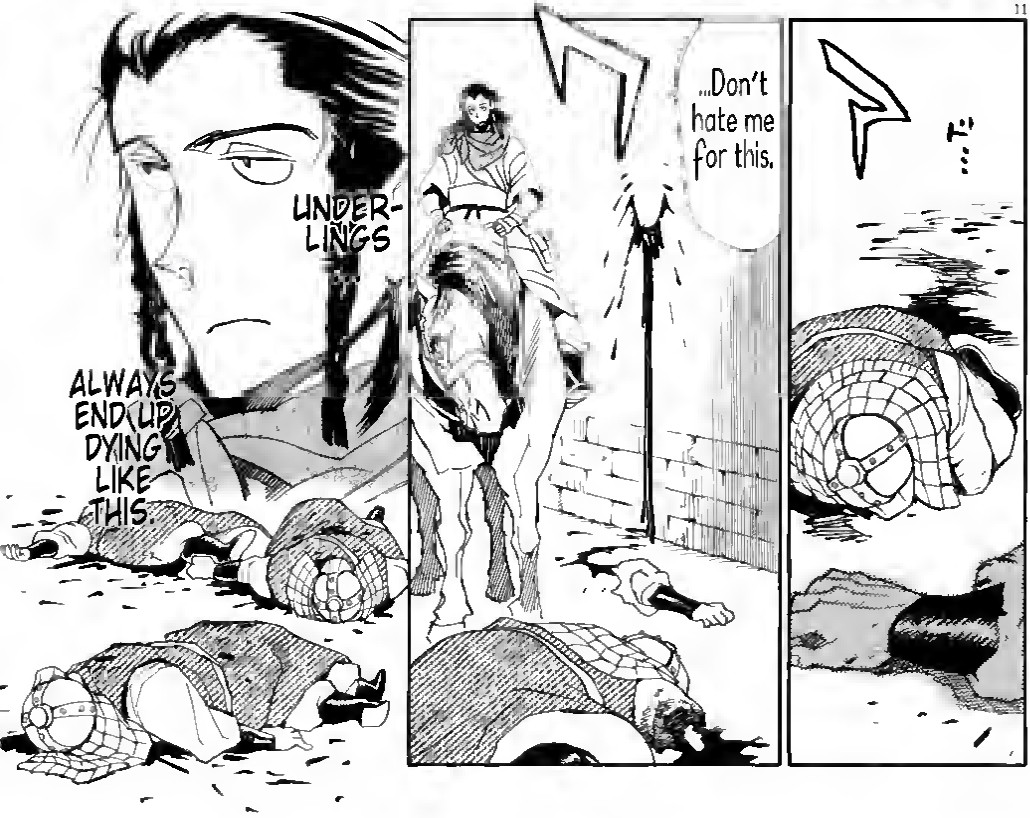
...Looks like it's starting.
Hey, brat.
pat pat
Isn't it odd? You haven't even said sorry or gotten a spanking.
I got left behind thanks to your arrow.
You'll be minding the baggage with me for a while.
Only one lookout
If I could just get my arms free ...

You're a guard, aren't you?
Stop going after him.
The captain will get angry at you again.
I suppose.
but we might be attacked by Mongols soon, right?

...And, unfortunately,
the brat might get hit by a stray arrow and die, right?



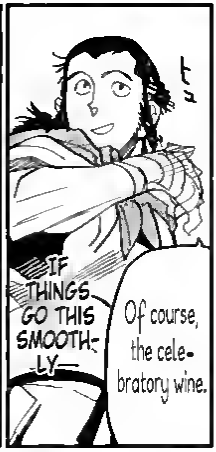

My... arm...
ボ ボ ボ


UNDER-LINGS
ALWAYS END UP DYING LIKE THIS.
...Don't hate me for this.
ド…

Shouldn't you save that until we're finished here? You wouldn't want it to become a habit.
I WON'T STAY AN UNDERLING AND DIE FOR NOTHING.

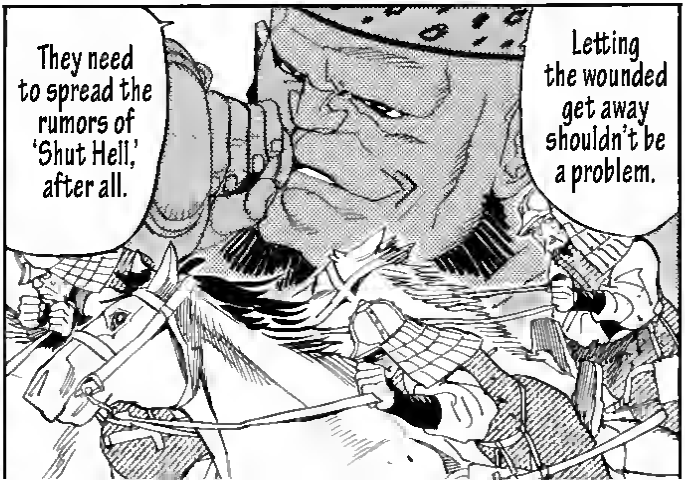
Have you got it, Ibaha?
THERE ARE STILL HORSES. CHASE THEM!

Great. You've always got things all thought out.
I CAN RIDE THIS PIG ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.


IF THINGS GO THIS SMOOTHLY—
Of course, the celebratory wine.

12

Oh.
OVER THERE—


They need to spread the rumors of 'Shut Hell,' after all.
Letting the wounded get away shouldn't be a problem.

Stupid woman.
There'd be no point tying you up if you could get out that easily.
Stop fooling around!
Cut it out!
STRAIN
STRAIN
STRAIN
13
It's fine, Sudoh
AS LONG AS IT'S JUST HIM.

バサッ
ATTACK!
14
UAH!
UWAAAH!
AAAH!
GYAH!
バサッ
バサッ

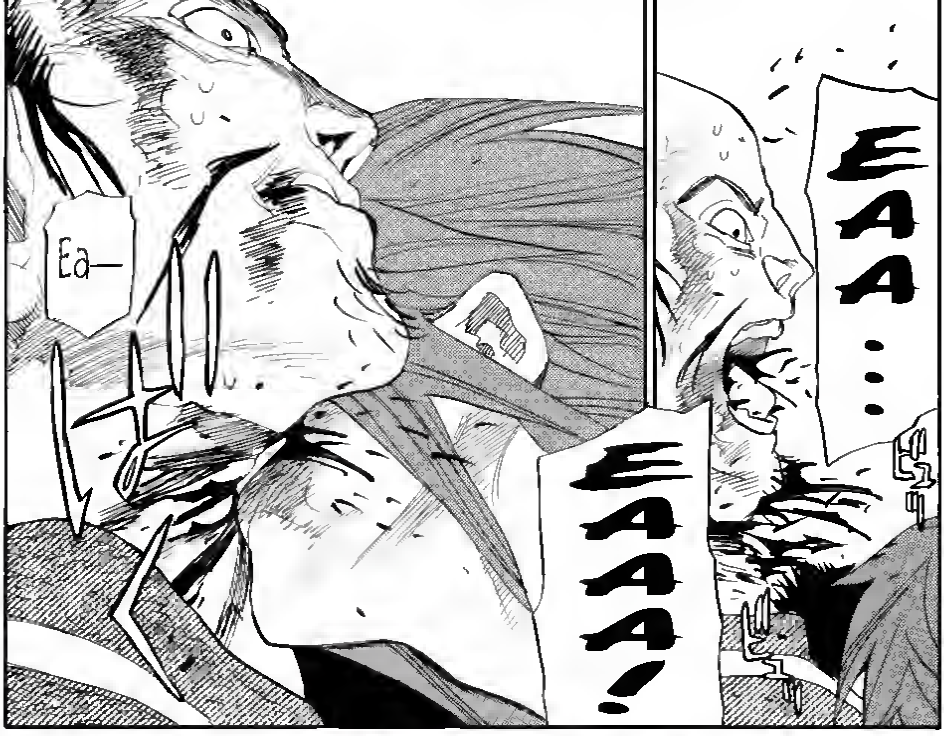
バサッ
Uh...
Yaaaa...
Yaraltu, get away!
THERE ARE TWO OR THREE RIDERS COMING!
ヒヒーン
Hurry!
トロ
ドド
ZUKU...

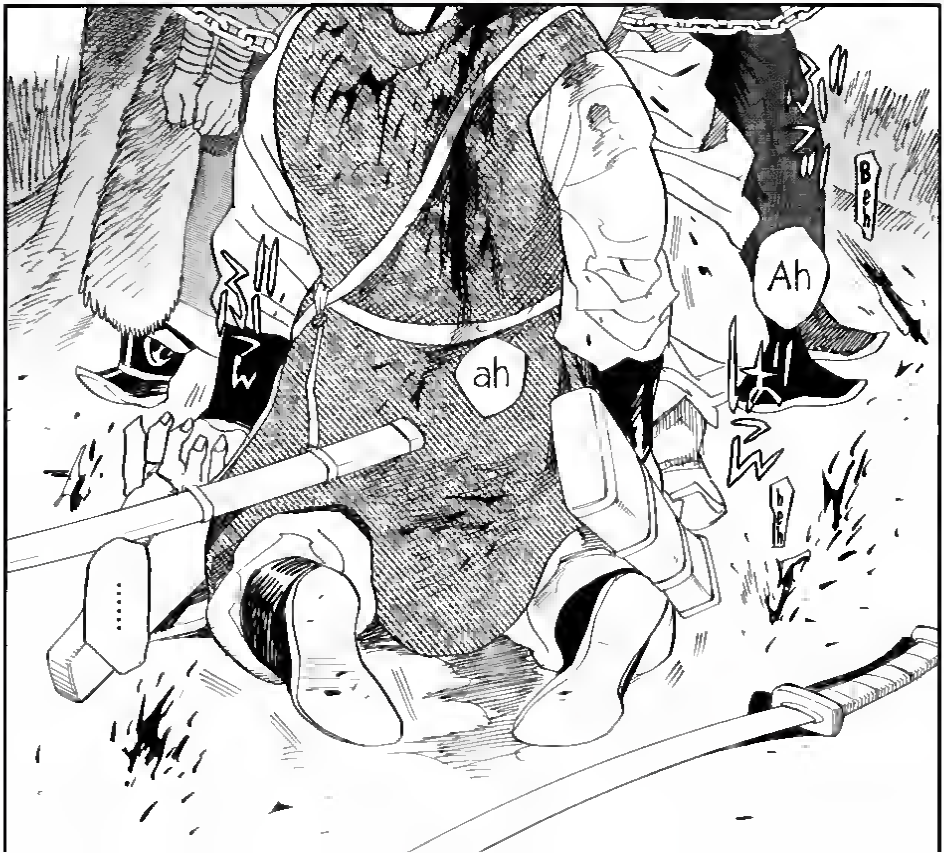
Ah...
Leave him. We need to get out of here!
DOH!
ANGRY
ANGRY
this is bad ...
Th...

—Untie us, please!
huff
A Mongol child...?
huff
Were you captured by the Jin...?
huff
...WHAT...?
—I, see...
...you guided them in the attack, didn't you...?
YOU'RE WRONG!
OF COURSE NOT!
CLINK

TRAITORS!
STOP!
—LORD YURUL...!
NO!!
...grrr...
Huh...?

SNAP
CRACK
キチ…
Guh
uh
Keh
…
カラン
20
PEH!


Ea—
EAA...
EAAA!


Beh
Ah
ah
beh
.....

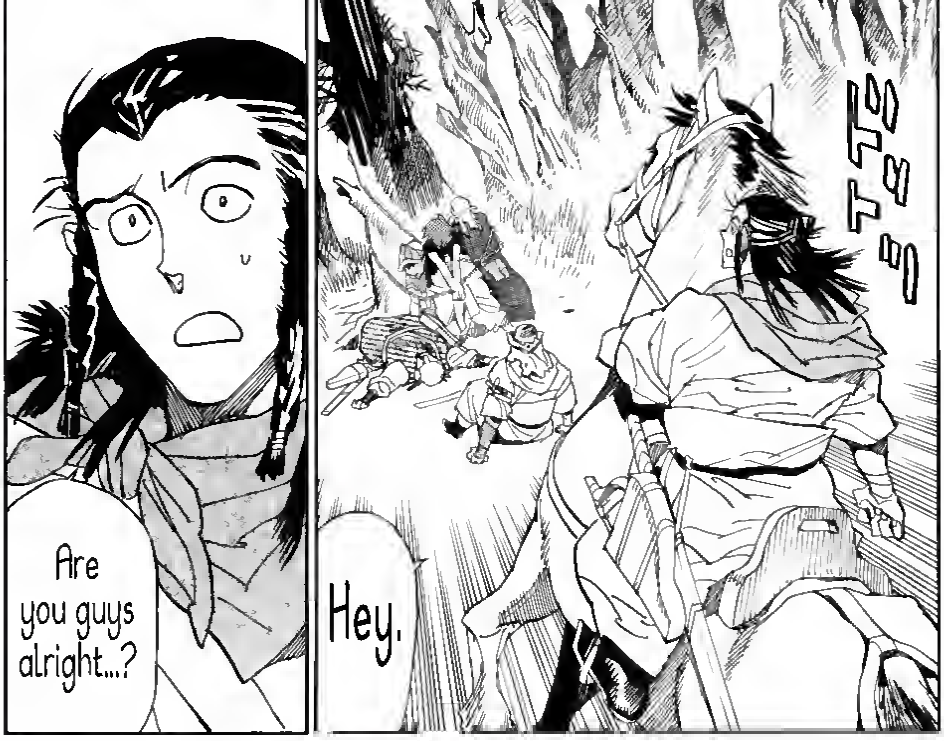
...
sigh
...
RR-IP

HA
HA
!!!
Hieh
ドアー
When you come out, 'Shut Hell'
HAA
HAA
HAA
...I understand...
24
You can't do it alone...
Sudoh ...?
You can't protect Yurul alone.
But— Shut Hell.

ガッ

…
Shut Hell
…
ギリ

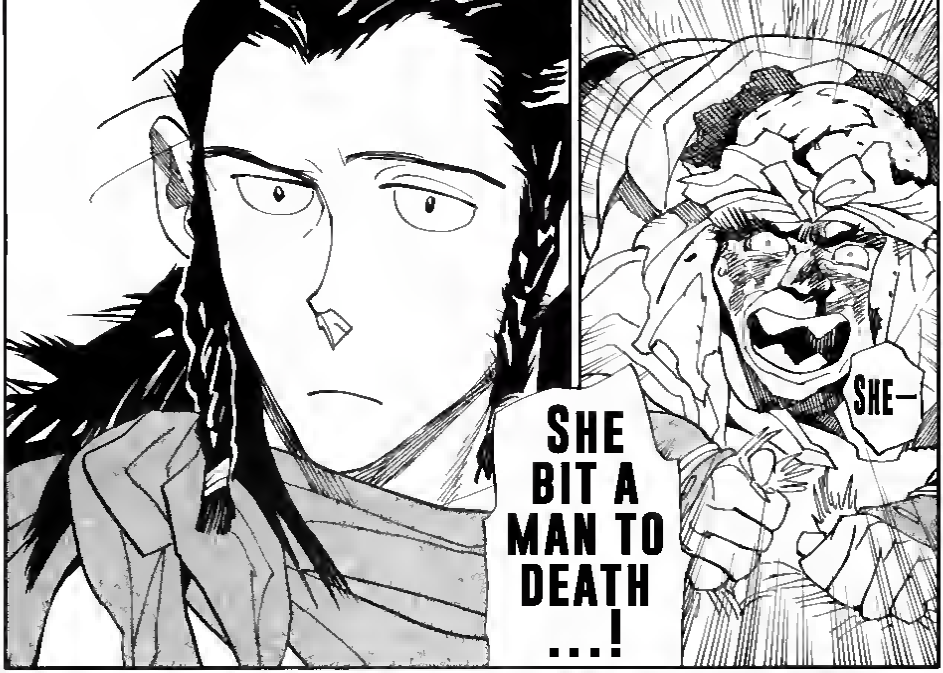
SUDDEN!
But... it won't ... work.
-That's ...
ぽた…

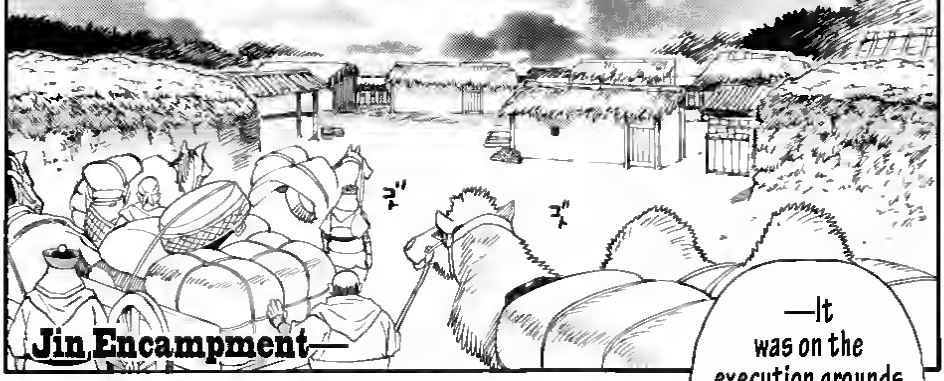

Are you guys alright...?
Hey.
ドカッ

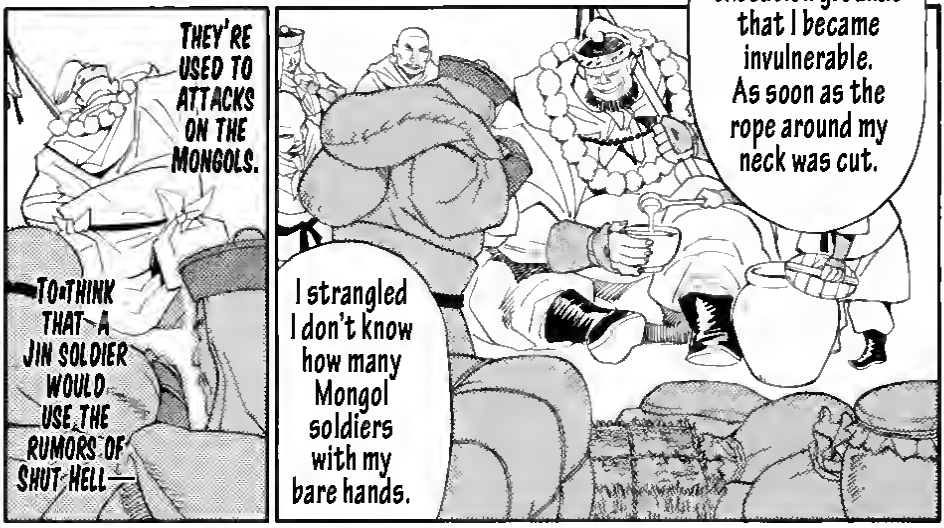
A MONGOL SOLDIER WHO GOT AWAY...
...HE'S DEAD...?
!
THAT'S...
—What are you lying down for?

...What happened?

That woman's crazy!
Tha...


SHE—
SHE BIT A MAN TO DEATH...!

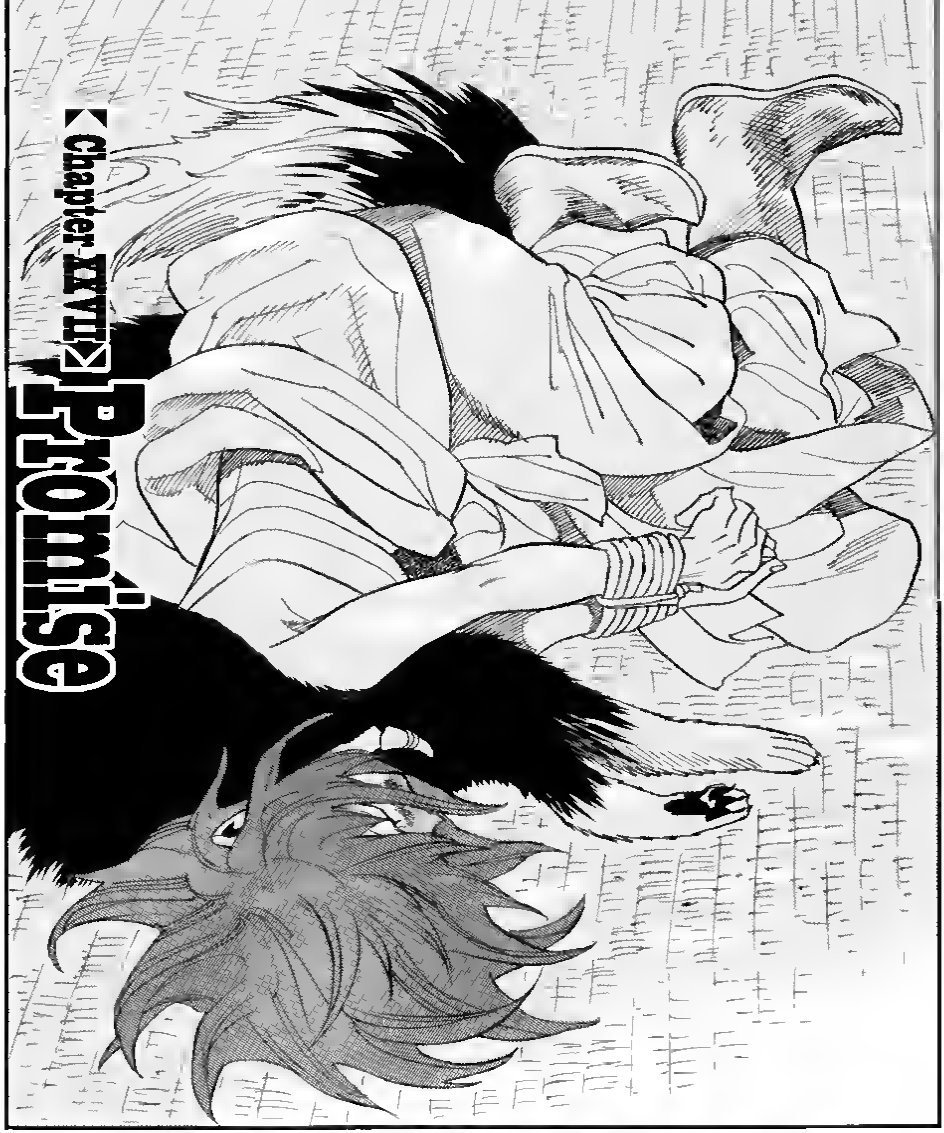



—It was on the execution grounds that I became invulnerable. As soon as the rope around my neck was cut.
I strangled I don't know how many Mongol soldiers with my bare hands.
THEY'RE USED TO ATTACKS ON THE MONGOLS.
TO THINK THAT A JIN SOLDIER WOULD USE THE RUMORS OF SHUT-HELL—

Even if border skirmishes are common,
If they become too frequent, they'll eventually arouse the Mongols' anger
WE MUST RETRIEVE THE VOICE OF JADE AS SOON AS WE CAN,
AND GET AWAY FROM THESE JIN SOLDIERS, OR—
Is the food ready yet, Alunge? You could get that woman to help too, you know.

Chapter XXVII **Promise**

That woman bit a man to death.
Must be some kind of illness; or else, a monster ...
A wolf-woman.
We shouldn't get near her...!


Chapter XXVIII
Promise

Uge
...
—THE INSIDE OF MY MOUTH STILL TASTES LIKE BLOOD...

...Shut Hell, you only come out
—to kill Mongol soldiers, am I right?
That's why she didn't show herself against the Jin soldiers.
Ahaahh ..
It seems she really has forgotten everything ..
... and that she cared for him?
Didn't she say that Yurul was an important person to her,
—Even though I remember.
...It's so frustating.

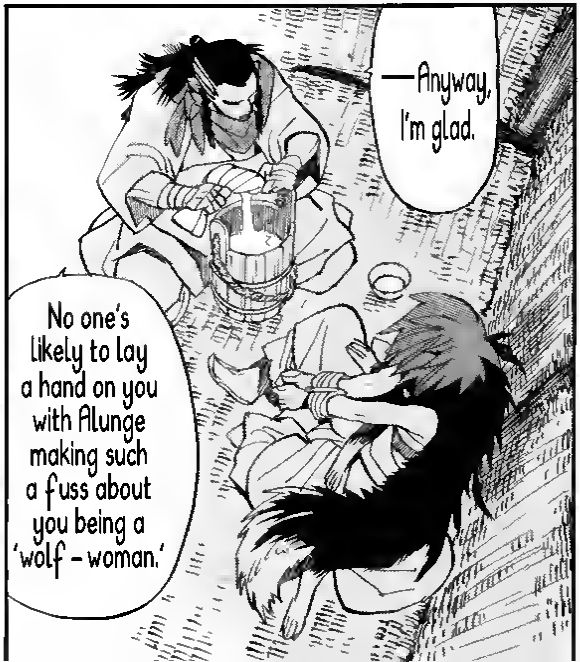
Since the last time she came out, Shut Hell's presence has grown stronger.
I, on the other hand—
But...

Because I'm trying to push her back.
I'm frighten-ingly tired. My body is heavy...

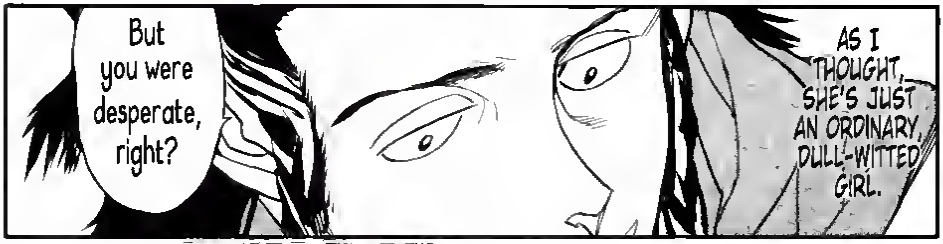
Hey, Sudah. What da you think they're calling you?

'Wolf-woman' is what ...

Oh, thanks.
Keep still now.


—Anyway, I'm glad.
No one's likely to lay a hand on you with Alunge making such a fuss about you being a 'wolf-woman.'

...You soy you're glad, but...
Yurul was watching too...
...and I'm sure it must have shocked him...
... 'wolf-woman,' huh...?


AS I THOUGHT, SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY, DULL-WITTED GIRL.
But you were desperate, right?

...There's nothing I can do.

That was... Shut Hell.
I'm sure you did your best.

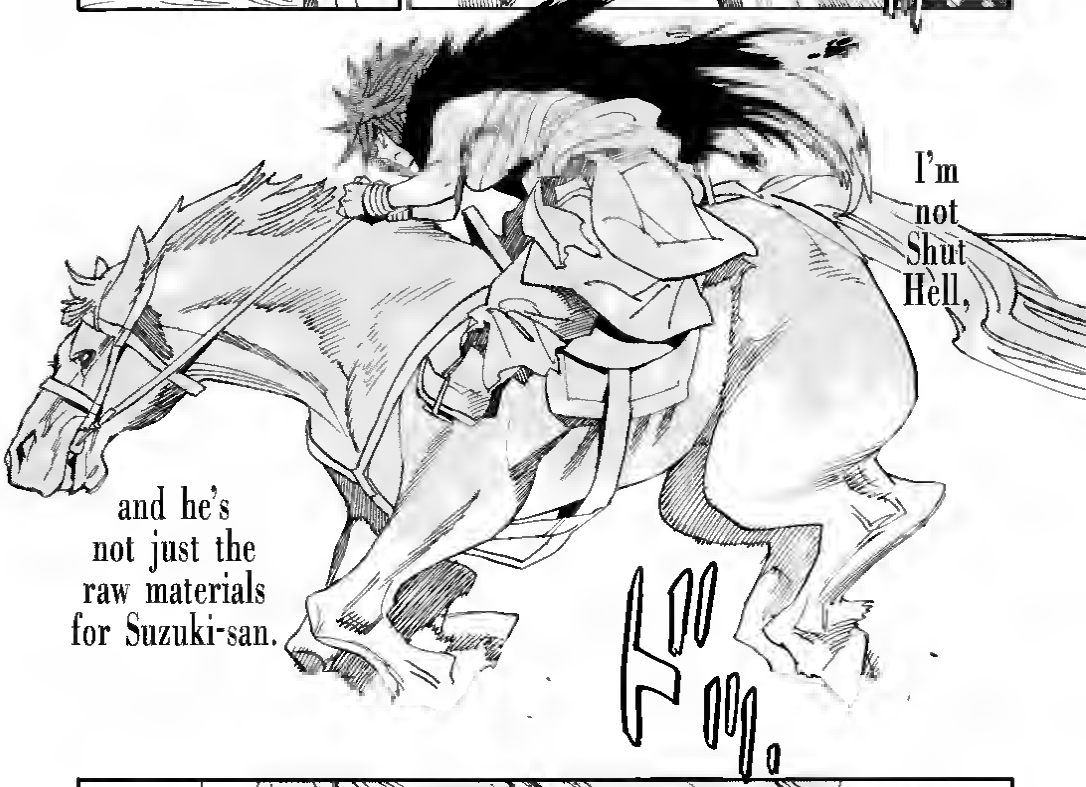
...I'm ashamed to be useless.

If you think that, it's incredible.
...ALL FOR THE SAKE OF A SINGLE KID?
Are you in love with the kid?
—FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING,
AND HAS NO SELF-CONFIDENCE
TO STAND IN FRONT OF DOZENS OF ARROWS.
...oh...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S SUZUKI-SAN, OR...
No way; not at all.
Pffft!!

pat
...Just don't die for a kid, okay?
Hey!
I see... that's it.
I CAME HERE TO PROTECT YURUL...
That's it...
YURUL IS CONNECTED TO SUZUKI-SAN, WHO SHOULD BE IN THE FUTURE.
BUT THAT MEANS—

Does she have a fever now?
Man, I'm hopeless...
What an idiot I am— Shut Hell's face wouldn't be shocking to Yurul at all.
Hey
Isn't there anything I can do?
I haven't been seeing Yurul himself, doesn't it?
But that means
—We won't be able to keep them fooled if we aren't back by nightfall!
Anything I can do for Yurul—?

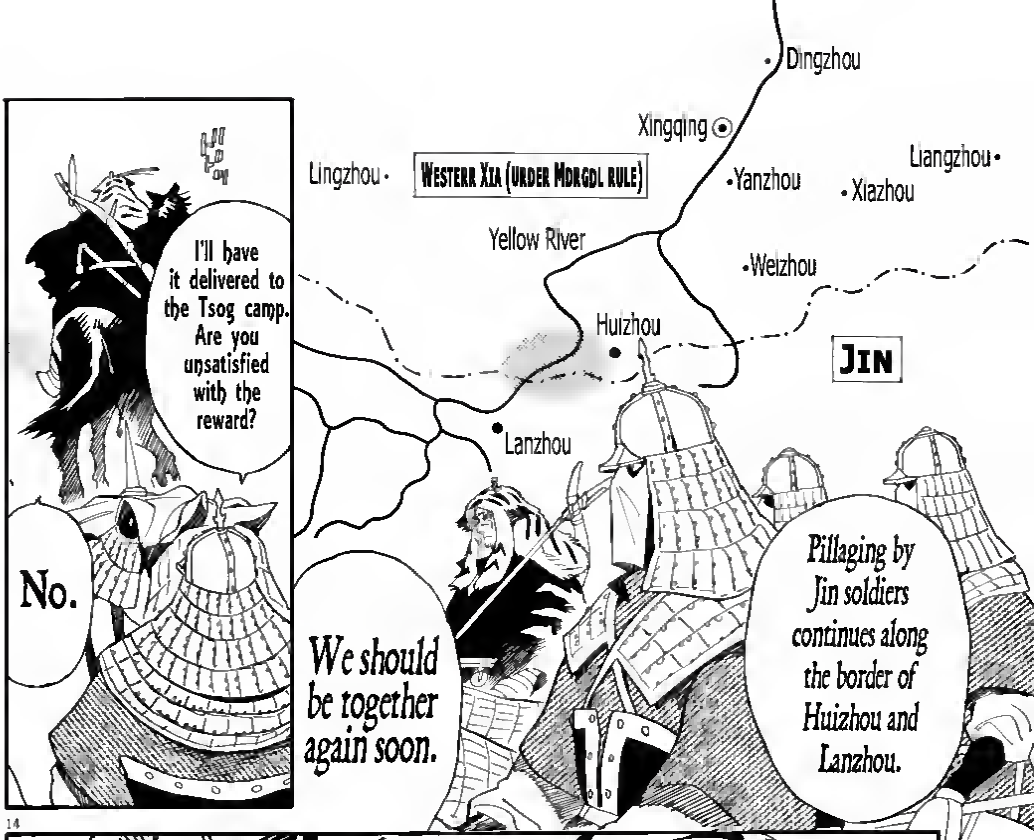
—I'M STUCK IN THIS BODY, BUT—
Are you listening Sudoh!?
My position will be in donger, too...


I'm not Shut Hell,
and he's not just the raw materials for Suzuki-san.

just isn't right
Thinking that there's no helping it if I let him down

We're connected. From now on,
me and Yurul are directly connected.
IF I UNTIED HER HANDS, SHE MIGHT FALL OFF.
SHE LOOKS UNSTEADY.
Is she alright?
12
NONCHALANTLY GO TO THE PLACE WE JUST ATTACKED? THAT'S NOT JUST DULL WITTED; IT'S CRAZY.
...WELL, I THINK THAT'S A MONGOLIAN INSTRUMENT, BUT...
UMM, COULD WE GO BACK TO THE MONGOL CAMP AND LOOK FOR A REPLACEMENT?
BECAUSE THE KID'S MATOUQIN BROKE?

WHO KNOWS WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US IF WE'RE CAUGHT—
So, why am I staying with her this far?
?
Even though the 'Voice of Jade' wasn't found?
A reward?
13
The war is over.
The Grand Academy must have been the last of the Tangut resistance.
It was bestowed because the Grand Academy's resistance was subdued so quickly, Harabal.
The Great Khan hopes for more good work from now on.


Dingzhou
Xingqing
Liangzhou
Lingzhou
Western Xia (Order Mdrgdl rule)
Yanzhou
Xiazhou
Yellow River
Weizhou
Huizhou
Jin
Lanzhou
I'll have it delivered to the Tsog camp. Are you unsatisfied with the reward?
No.
We should be together again soon.
Pillaging by Jin soldiers continues along the border of Huizhou and Lanzhou.

I'll be pleased as long as I'm able to return.

... alright, they don't see us.

You really are trouble!
Why do I have to carry this huge, tattered dust-cloth!?
I'm sorry...
...ah.
Take a good long rest!
Ow.
ぼと
It's too bad we didn't find one.
.....
...sigh

'Because there's no one left to rejoice at it...' I bet.
...I'll make you a new one some time
Yurul... the Batoukin—
It's fine.
I probably wouldn't have played it anymore, anyway
16
That's not it! I'm not trying to win your affection with lies; I'm just trying to entice you with objects!
But you might think badly of Chibi too!
Tha,
I don't plan on being able to give you anything back, after all.
You don't have to push yourself.
...Thanks, some time
Really?
Oh now that I think about it, my tools are...
P prob-ably

Just like I didn't give anything back to Shut Hell.
I promised to teach her the script of her country,
carved into the Voice of Jade, but...
Stepped on a landmine
Shut Hell is gone now
That's why I said sorry for showing up uninvited.
Even so, I still
have to carry the Voice of Jade
Even though I'm still in mourning—
...I SHOULD HAVE KILLED THEM.

IF I WANTED TO SAVE HER,
'BECAUSE YOU'RE A MAN WHO CHOOSES PRETTY WORDS.'
THEN I SHOULD HAVE KILLED

'I WANT TO PROTECT THE TANGUT SCRIPT.'
(BEFORE FORGIVING OR NOT.)
'YOUR...'
(DIFFERENT WAYS OF LIVING—)
'FOR THE SAKE OF PRETTY WORDS—'
—THOSE WHO WANTED TO KILL HER.

—Now that I'm preparing to bear it again—
...I'm ashamed I have no face to meet her
WHEN I WAS ABLE TO TAKE UP THE VOICE OF JADE... MY SHOULDER WERE SLIGHT.
I WAS SHOCKED AT MY OWN RELIEF...
Now, I can't believe in the pretty words I said to her myself
Yurul, turn this way.

YOU'RE USELESS.
Ow.
Yeah
It's too bad, but we're partners in uselessness.
I'm useless too.
A-are you trying to say something?

So, there's nothing to be ashamed of
We're both useless, but let's try our best
I can believe in your pretty words!

But I can't replace Shut Hell, so
And I really will make you a new Botoukin. You'll teach me to write more.
Let's bring the Voice of Jade to Song together!

Alright?
I'm going to come with you again, in my own way.

...how about that...
...I can teach you more characters tomorrow, or even today
SCRATCH
What's that?
[Pleased to meet you.]

——NOT EVEN A SINGLE LIGHT...

—Harabal.

So... you've come back.
You're too late...

The Chief... is—

Hara-bal...
You're too late...

It hap-pened so suddenly ...

Chapter XXVIII Atonement

Chapter XXVIII

Atonement

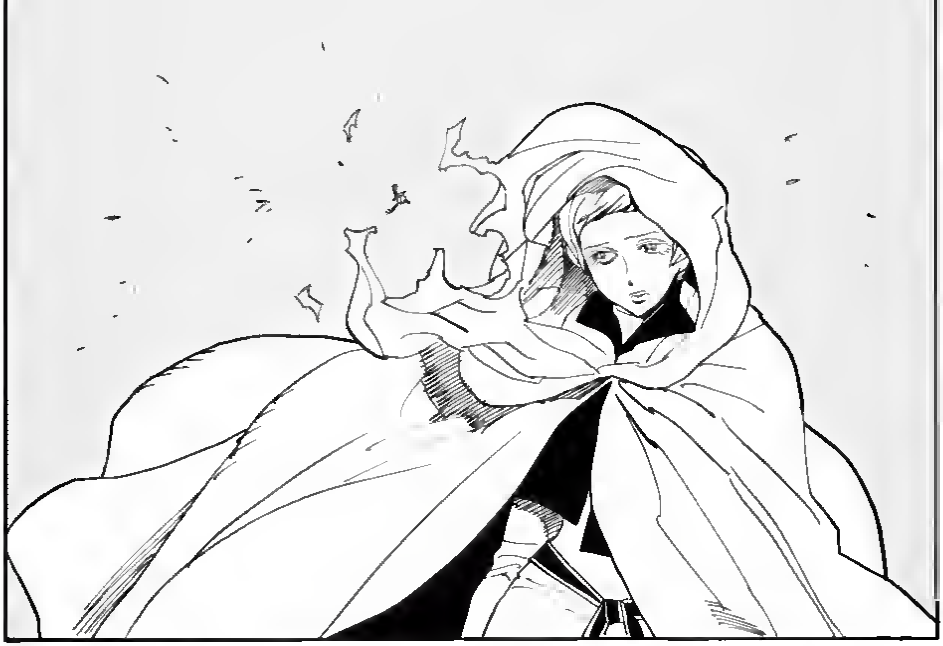
AAA AHH—!
UUAA AAH!
Damn them!
Shit! Grab your bows.
GUUH-
ドサッ
ドサッ

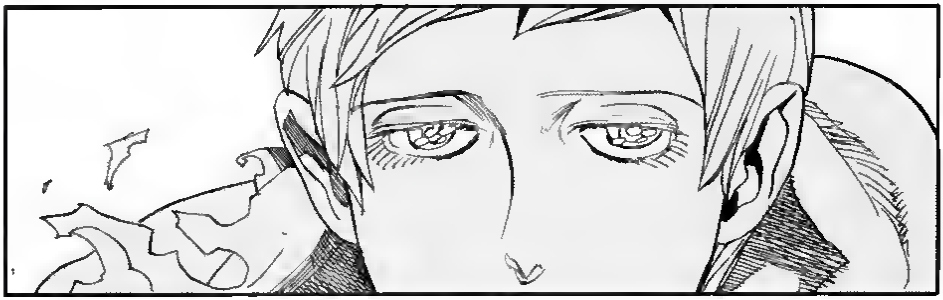
Shiun
Why——!? Why, Mongols!?
DIDN'T WE GET DOWN ON OUR KNEES AND SUBMIT!?

Why ...?
Stay down, chief!
ヒヒン
ガク
WHIN-NEW

ゴゴゴゴ
Damn them ...
Grr ...
ズバ
UU-GH.

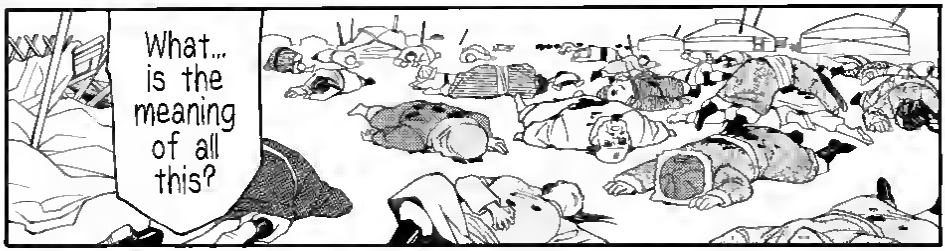
Somebody draw my bow for me!
Some-body!
Leave it to me...
휘릭
휘릭
휘릭





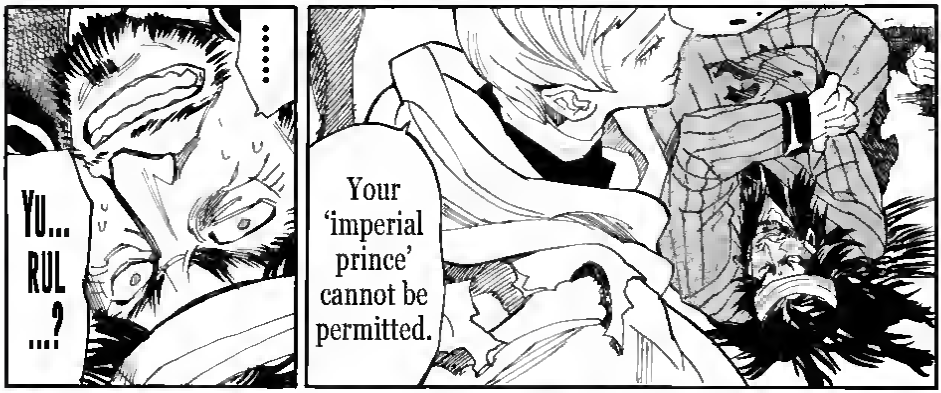
ビシッ!!

Why ...?


What... is the meaning of all this?

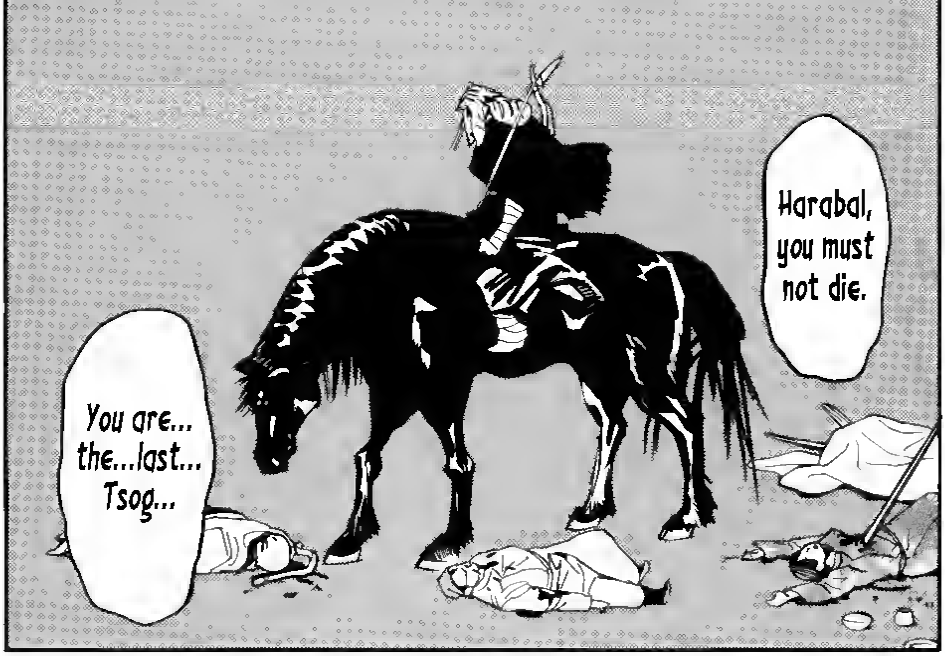
So, you thought to go against the Mongols with this hand?
ト!

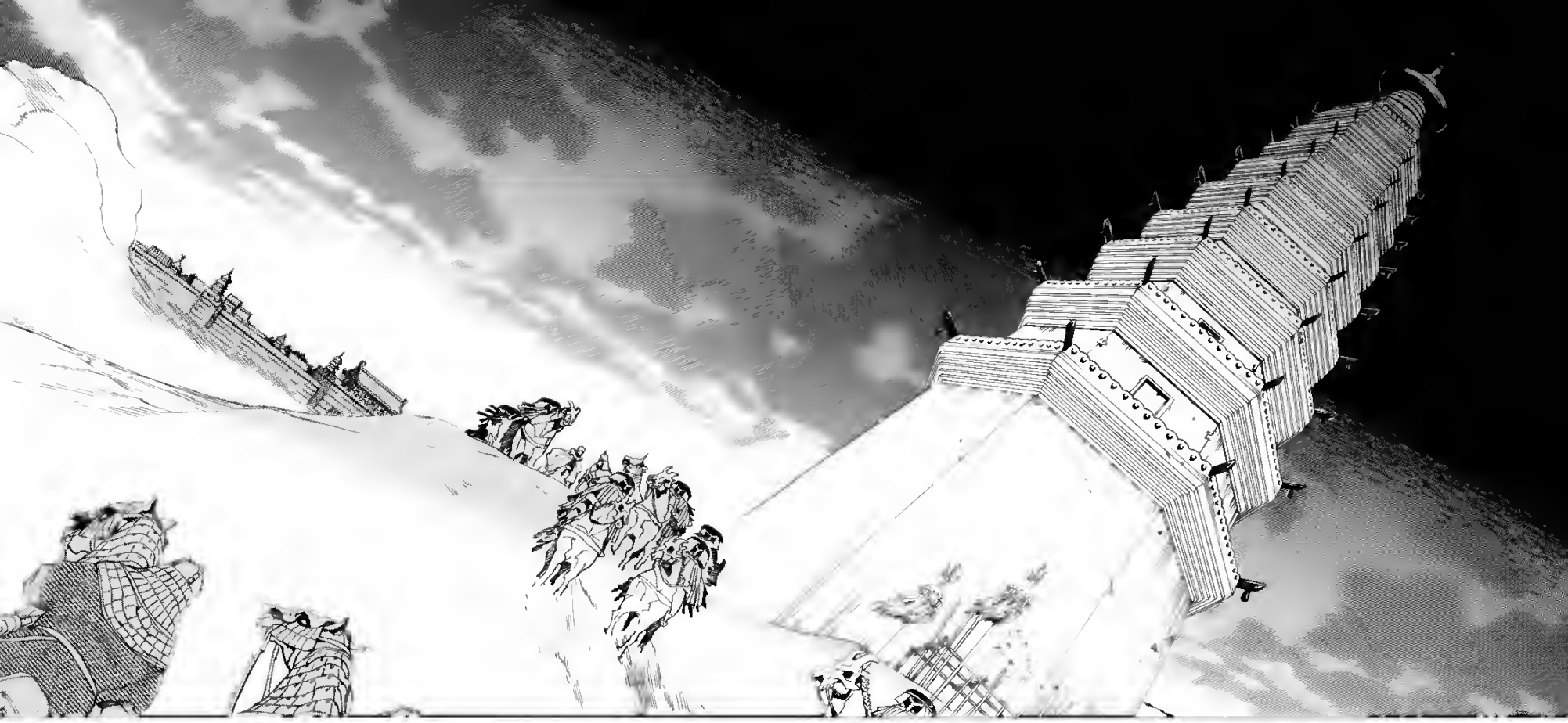
This won't be the end, will it?
UUO-OOOOH!


.....
YU... RUL ...?
Your 'imperial prince' cannot be permitted.

We mustn't let the chief die.
I will treat him.

So that he doesn't die.


Harqbal, you must not die.
You are... the...last... Tsog...



15

I've taken a fancy to let Harabal live.
And besides, the chief is still alive.

'Wiped out'?

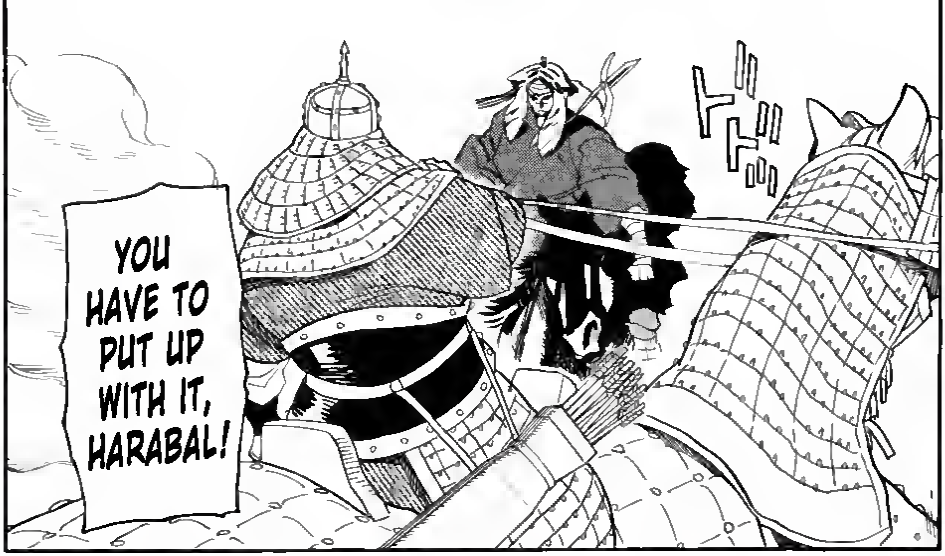
14

YOU'RE SAYING YOU WIPED OUT THE ENTIRE TSOG TRIBE, WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE CAPTURE OF XINGQING...!?

He's been treated so that he'll keep for two days.
Although, deranged and screaming like that, he may not live past today...
YURUU-UULL!

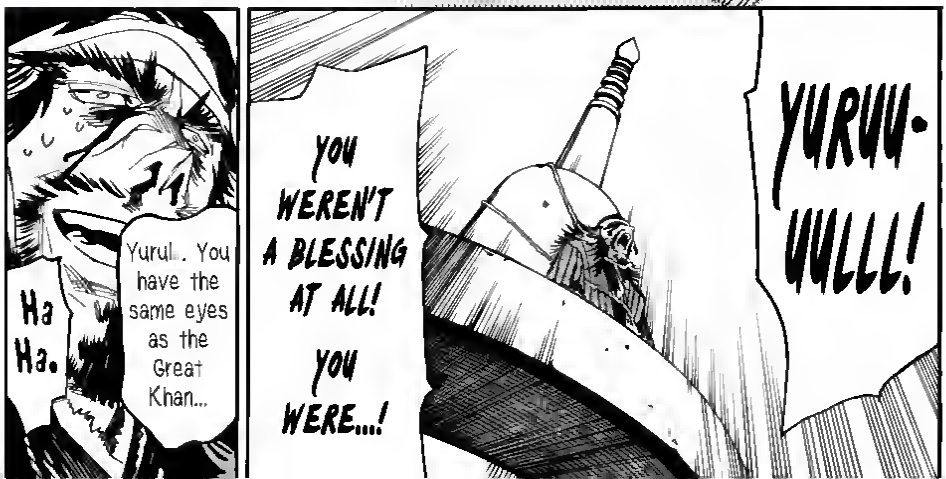
He's come.

Make ready.
...FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.
If he shows signs of aiming his arrows this way, fire.
Kuh ...


YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT, HARABAL!
トドド

It's unbelievable, but these are the Great Khan's orders.
But you alone are to be spared.
If you put a hand to your bow, they'll take that as a reason to shoot you.
YOU'LL BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THAT WOMAN'S HANDS!

The Tangut language and script must be destroyed, with no one left to pass them on.
Yes.
The Grand Academy and its libraries all went up in flames.
—Splendid work, 'God's Arrow General.'
My—— Presbyter Johannes.
No one is left to question the meaning of HIS wounds.


Ha Ha.
Yurul.. You have the same eyes as the Great Khan...
YOU WEREN'T A BLESSING AT ALL!
YOU WERE...!
YURUU-UULLL!

Pretending that he carried the blood of the Great Khan, they meant to cause disorder among the Mongols.

In the shadow of your achievements, the Tsog tribe, under your father's leadership, planned to set up a false 'imperial prince.'

If that were all, it would be a mere trifle. ...If that 'imperial prince' were not a thief.

Were you aware of this, general?

THAT CHILD'S NAME IS 'YURUL.'
When his daughter was married to the Tsog, an official was sent with her as a manservant ...
A high official of the Grand Academy was kind enough to tell me.
21
In order to hide the 'Voice of Jade' among the Tsog.
But the Voice of Jade vanished;
tbe 'imperial prince' took the manservant with him and absconded—
IT WAS YURUL ! ....
YURUL STOLE IT AWAY!

HE WAS
A CALAMITY THAT DESTROYED THE TSOG!
HE WAS NO BLESSING!
HE WAS A CURSE! HE WAS POISON!

* 'God's Arrow General' Harabal's nickname/Title—Translator's Note

Atone for the crimes of the Tsog by your own hand, Melgen.*
KILL YURUUU-UULLL!
Your father will be preaching up there for several days alive, and several years dead.
Telling what becomes of those who betray the Mongols.
HARA-BAA—AALLL!
KILL HIIIM-MM—!
Be thankful. The Great Khan values the skill of 'God's Arrow.'

...!

What fearsome speed.
And that from a distance too great for our arrows to reach...
HE HAS JUDGED HIS FATHER'S CRIMES!
—HE HAS NO INTENT TO REBEL!

He has put him to rest ...
Judged? No;
27
So, this is 'God's Arrow.'
The crimes of the Tsog are absolved; at the same time, there is only one way to repay this great obligation...
KILL YURUL, AND RECLAIM THE VOICE OF JADE.

...I WILL RETURN WITHOUT FAIL.

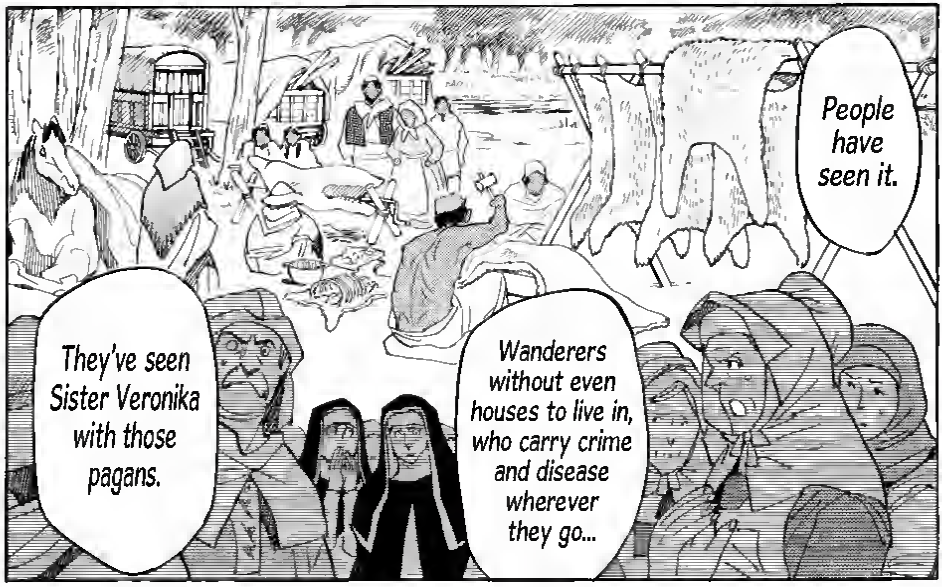
...I look forward to our next meeting.

Chapter XXIX
Scars
Father.
Father!
I'll be sure to tell her.
What do we have here!?
Where is Sister Veronika? She healed my horse.
She even cured my tooth-ache.
The medicine Sister Veronika gave me cured my child's fever.

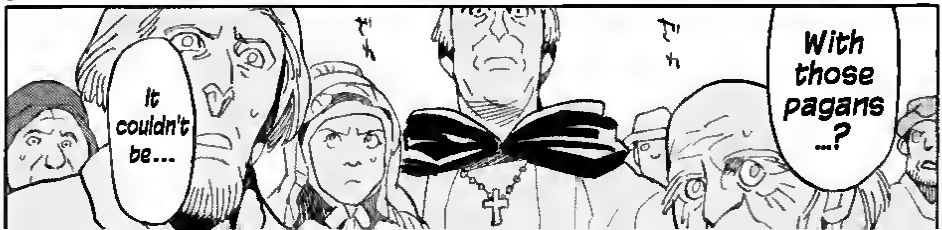
But... she's kind to everyone; she's beautiful and wise...
Where is she? I'd still like to give her a word of thanks.

She's at the camp. The one on the riverbank.
.....

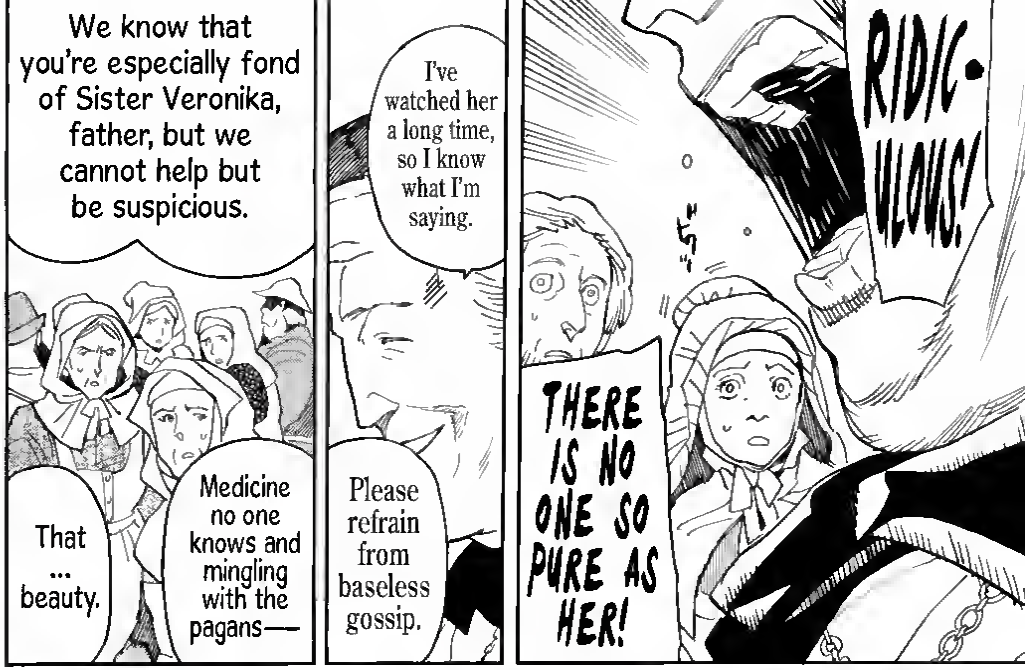
I am gratified by all your feelings, but it is all to service the Lord.
Worldly renown is not Sister Veronika's desire.

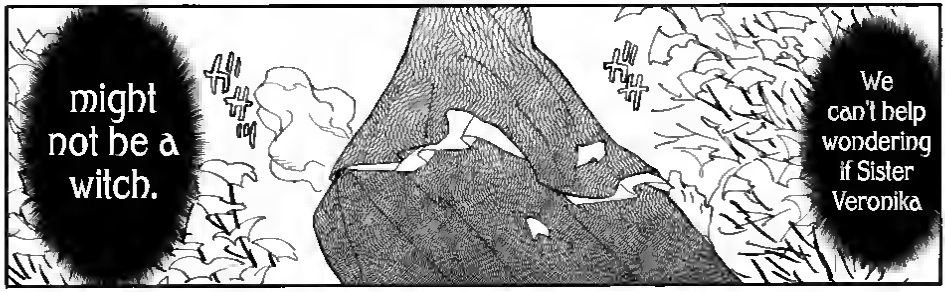

People have seen it.
They've seen Sister Veronika with those pagans.
Wanderers without even houses to live in, who carry crime and disease wherever they go...

2


It couldn't be...
With those pagans ...?

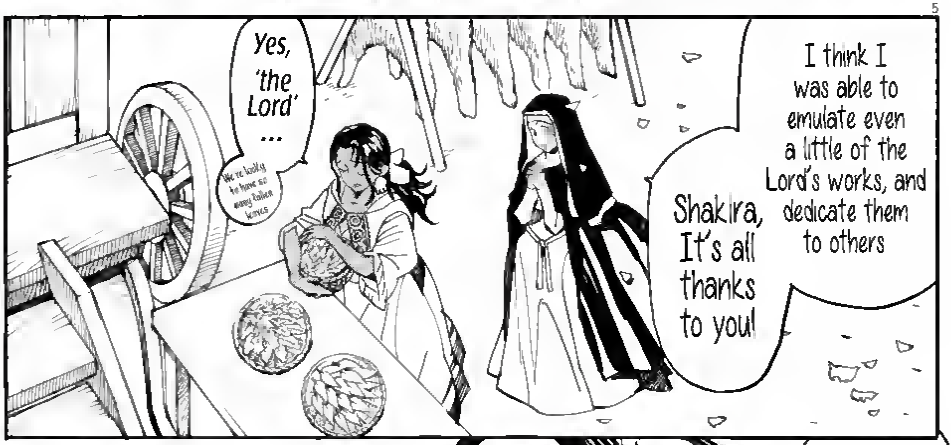
That must be why she was touching something in an animal's guts!
...Oh! That explains it.
Doing such extravagant charity for the pagans?
Kind to everyone? Beautiful and wise?


We know that you're especially fond of Sister Veronika, father, but we cannot help but be suspicious.
That ... beauty.
Medicine no one knows and mingling with the pagans——
I've watched her a long time, so I know what I'm saying.
Please refrain from baseless gossip.
RIDIC-ULOUS!
THERE IS NO ONE SO PURE AS HER!


We can't help wondering if Sister Veronika might not be a witch.

4
Sha-kira!
The cow I operated on has gotten much better!

When I burned that anaesthetic you told me about, it really worked!
I did it just like you taught me.


Yes, 'the Lord' ...
We're looking for homes as many Taliban leaders
Shakira, It's all thanks to you!
I think I was able to emulate even a little of the Lord's works, and dedicate them to others

You look like you're packing up Going to the next camp site already?
Not yet, but we have to be ready to set out at any time.

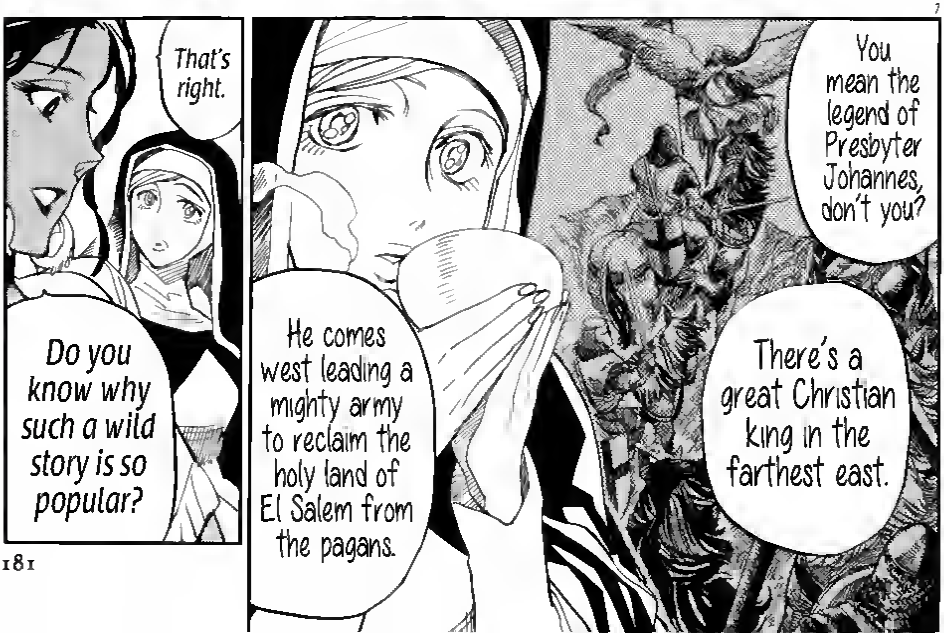
Veron-ika.
Well, If you're happy, then I'm glad too.

Dan't make that face. Even when I'm gane, yau'll da fine.
They're getting harsher towards us by the day.
It seems yaur peaple see us as enemies, after all.
You've already memorized it all.
Yau're very clever at decocting herbs, stapping bleeding and stitching waunds.
6
So it's true
Haw abaut a medicated bath that cheers yau up?
There are still things I haven't taught yau.
Came in.

Some of those people were saved by your medicines, Shakira, and yet...
——Even if only by a little, the people suffering from disease in this town have grown fewer.

You must have heard of Prester John, right?
—Veronika.

7


That's right.
Do you know why such a wild story is so popular?
He comes west leading a mighty army to reclaim the holy land of El Salem from the pagans.
You mean the legend of Presbyter Johannes, don't you?
There's a great Christian king in the farthest east.

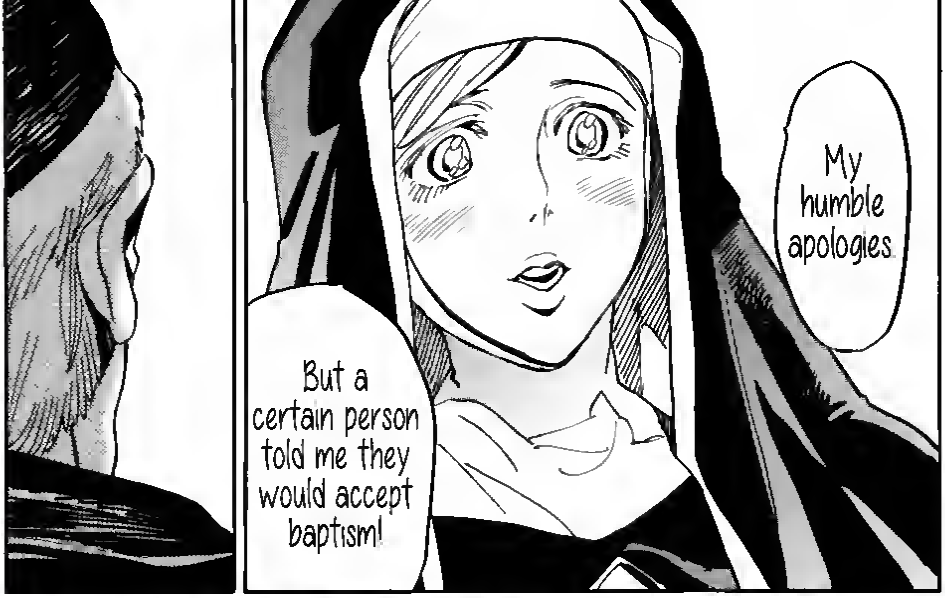
The crusaders of your God failed, and were recently driven out of El Salem.
So you can't help but want allies, in spite of appearances.
If there aren't even be 'pagans,' then they have to be people from a country na one's seen.
Shakira! That's terrible ...
To utter an insult to the Lord ...!
That's not it, Veron-ika—
What I want to say is,
If they say they believe in the same god,
Whoever they are, wherever they're fram... even me,
You'd let them jain your community here, wouldn't you?

I want to be with you.
Yes. I'll believe in the same god you do.
!...
I'll stay here.
Do you mean it ...?

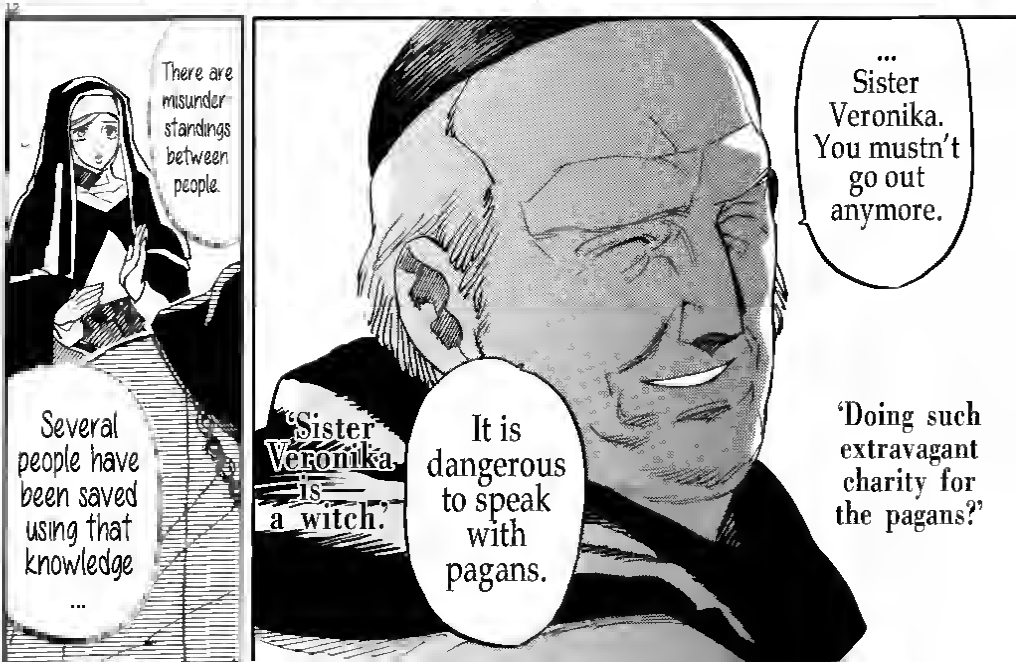
forgive me just for kissing you.
—As long as your god will

THERE'S NEVER BEEN ONE IN THIS TOWN.
THAT BRAND HAS NEVER EVEN BEEN USED.
—A WITCH?
...IMPOSSIBLE!
IT'S TRUE
...I SAW IT!
SISTER VERONIKA TOOK THE PAGAN BY THE HAND,
AND WENT ALONE INTO THEIR SLEEPING QUARTERS
...Veronika.

Veron-
ika...
Veronika...
you mustn't
do that
....
I heard
your voice
just now
You
called me,
father?
oh
...
I was
worried
about
you.
Aren't
you
late?
!...

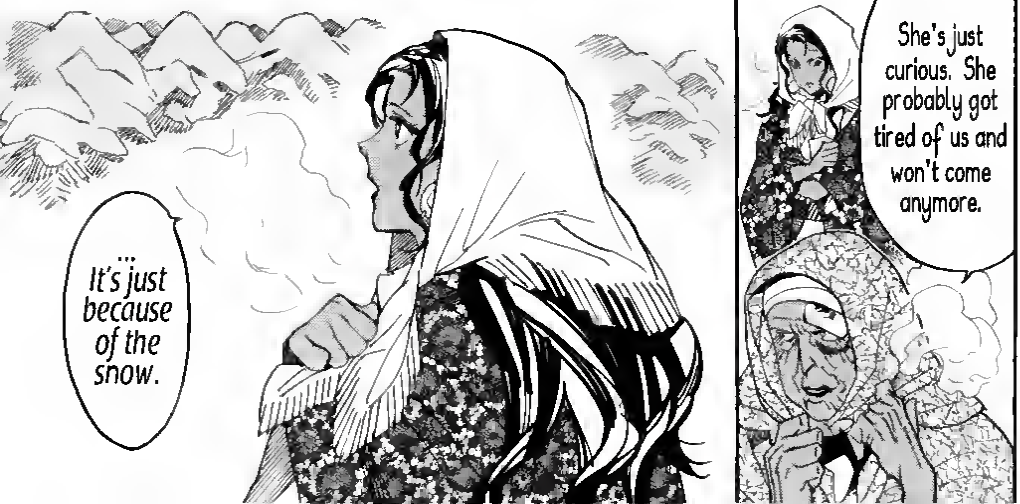

My humble apologies.
But a certain person told me they would accept baptism!

... a pagan?
A good person.
She taught me a lot about how to make medicines and detect sickness.


... Sister Veronika. You mustn't go out anymore.
'Doing such extravagant charity for the pagans?'
It is dangerous to speak with pagans.
'Sister Veronika is a witch.'
There are misunderstandings between people.
Several people have been saved using that knowledge ...

—This, is for your soke, Veroniko ...

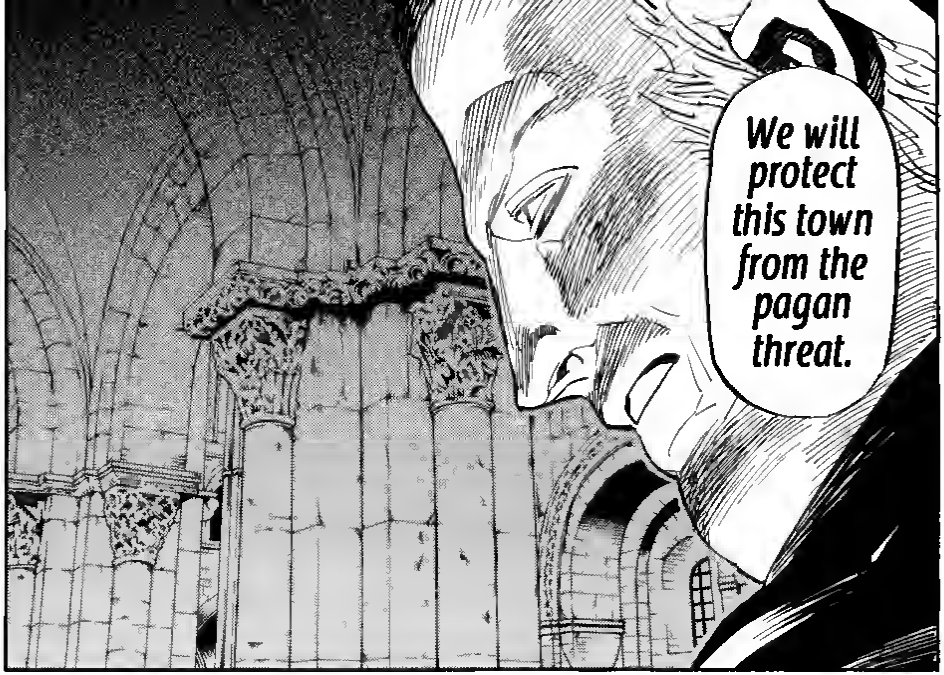
That's right. It's that nun who doesn't discriminate that's strange.
It's the same as always; I'm used to it.
They threw stones ot you, didn't they?


...It's just because of the snow.
She's just curious. She probably got tired of us and won't come anymore.

We might set out tomorrow.
Shakira, don't say any more about wanting ta stay behind, alright?
I just can't believe
that she won't ot leost come to say goodbye.
I sup-pose ...
Veron-ika...
But... I guess.

Well said, father.
Bring kitchen knives, hoes, even spades.
Gather all the dogs in town.

To-night.


We will protect this town from the pagan threat.

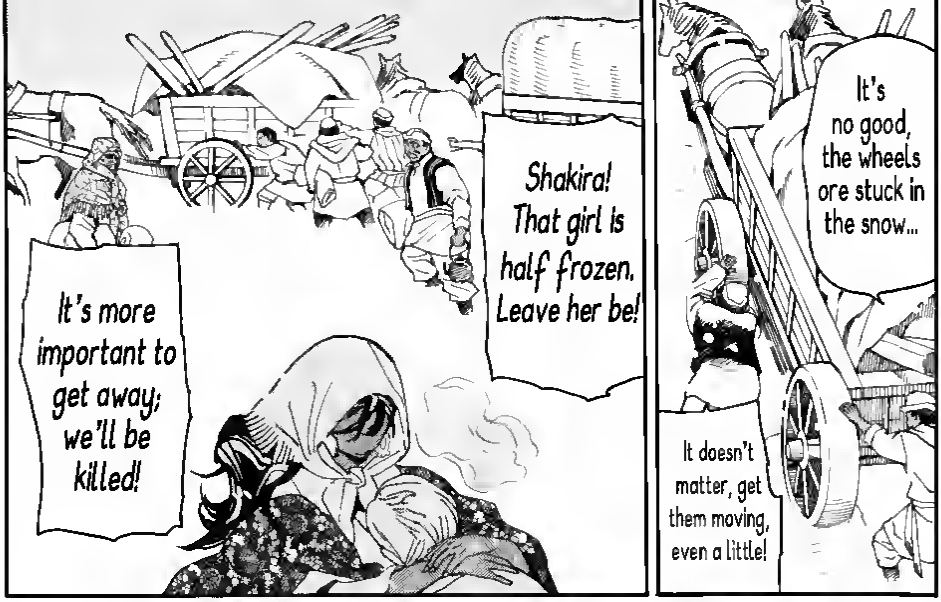
Please open it! I have to let her know!
Sister Veronika, you were ordered to hand over your coat and shoes.
We can't open the door.
Pray in there until morning.

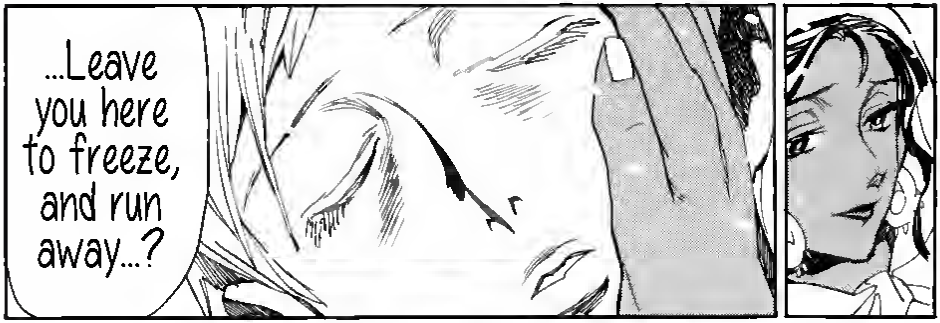
HAA
HAA

Sha... kira... run... away ...
Even your breath is cold !
What were you thinking!? Do you want to freeze?

I VERON-IKA!

You'll be killed
People and dogs are coming

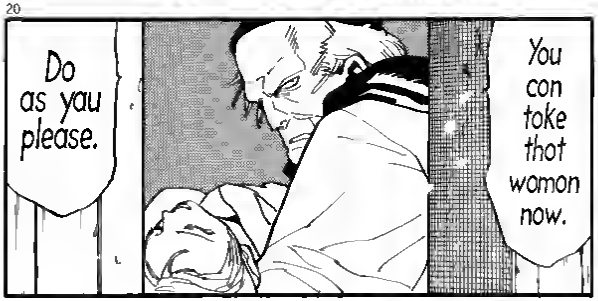

It's more important to get away; we'll be killed!
Shakira! That girl is half frozen. Leave her be!
It's no good, the wheels are stuck in the snow...
It doesn't matter, get them moving, even a little!


...Leave you here to freeze, and run away...?

We were idiots ...
We're both idiots, you and me.

18
Sha-
kira
...
You should just sleep, alright?
Awful things are going to happen soon.
...?

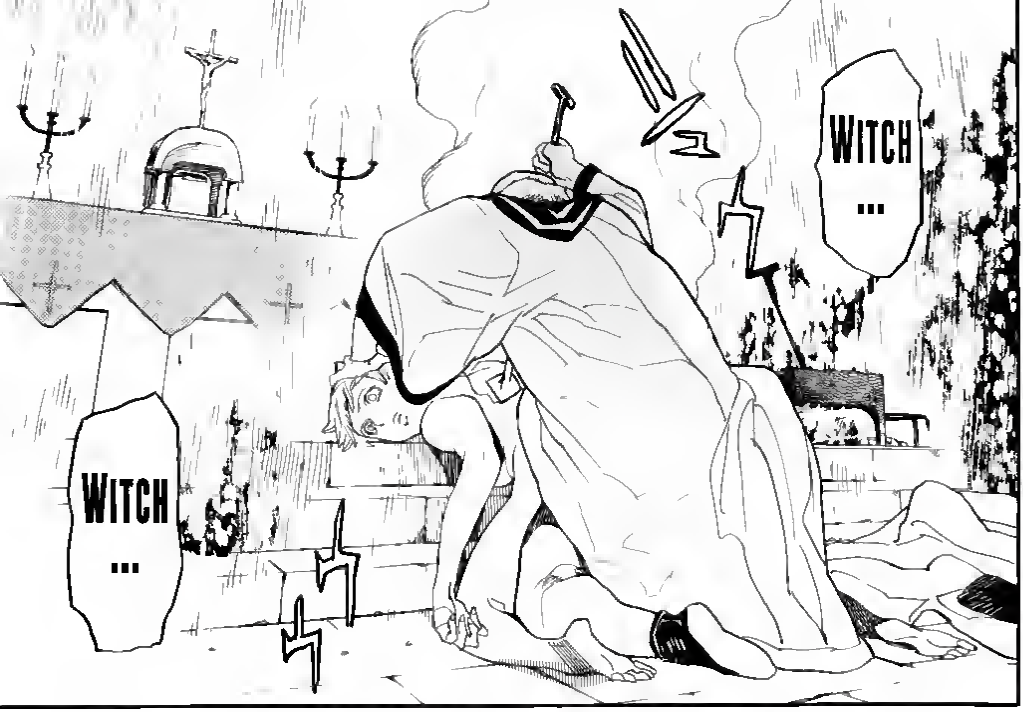
I LOVE YOU.
... Veron-ika.


You con toke thot womon now.
Do as yau please.

No one may enter.
I will conduct Veronika's exorcism.
THEY'RE BOTH WITCHES!
GIVE THEM TO US!

FIRE!
WITCH!
PURIFY HER WITH FIRE!

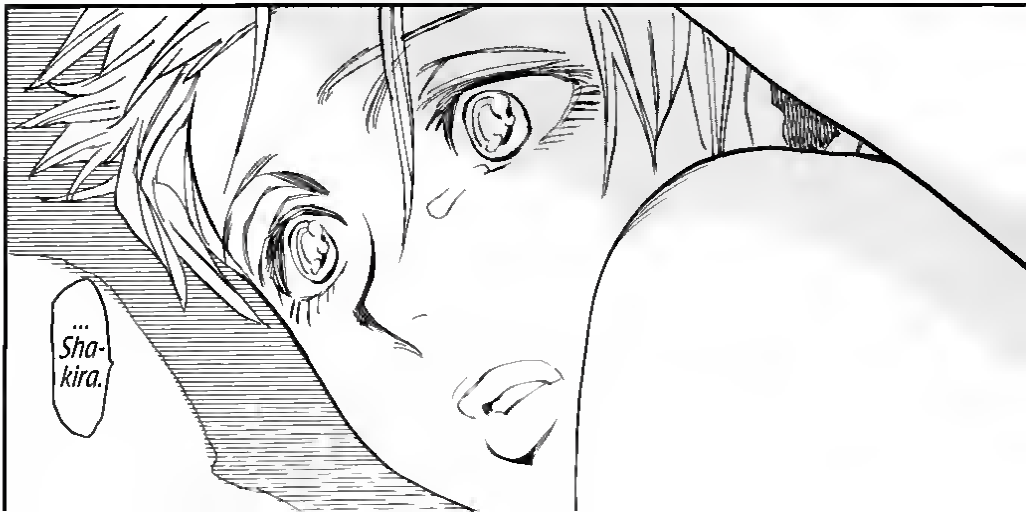
Hah!


WITCH ...
WITCH ...

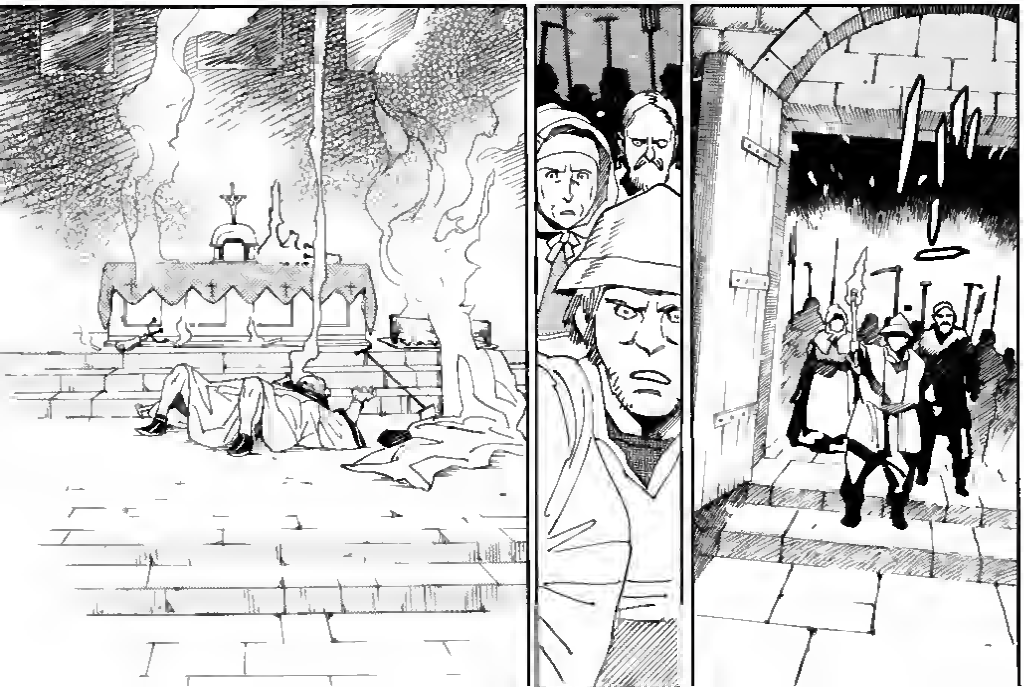
Uh... Hao... Oooo ...

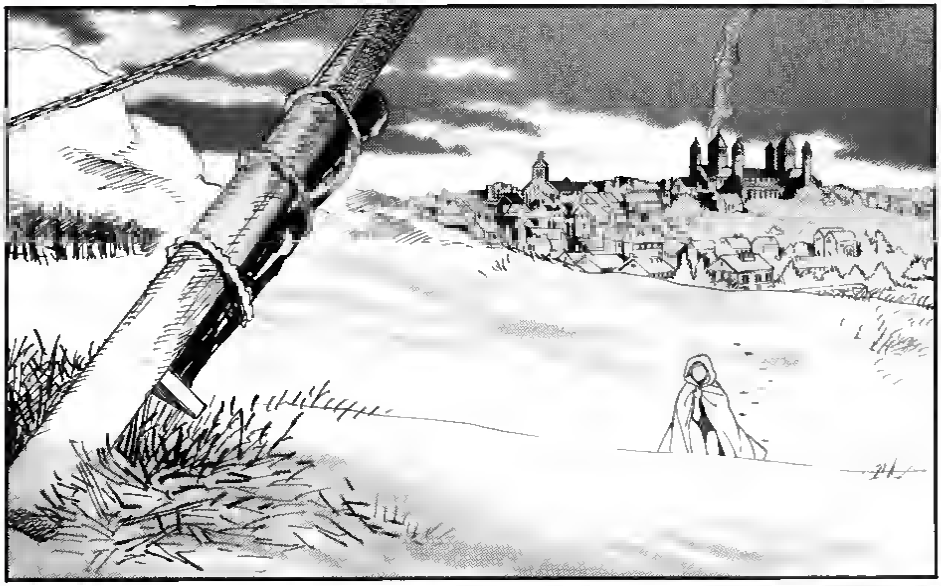
WITCH ...!
GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU...
WHY ...?

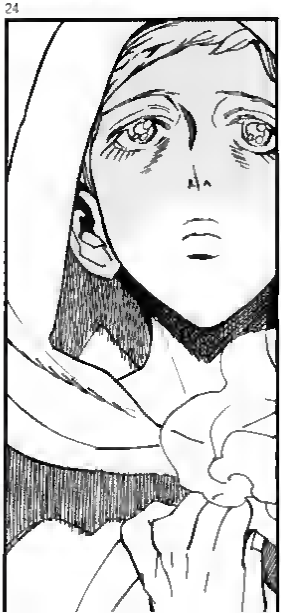
'YOU SHOULD JUST SLEEP, ALRIGHT?'
I DON'T FEEL HEAT OR PAIN ...

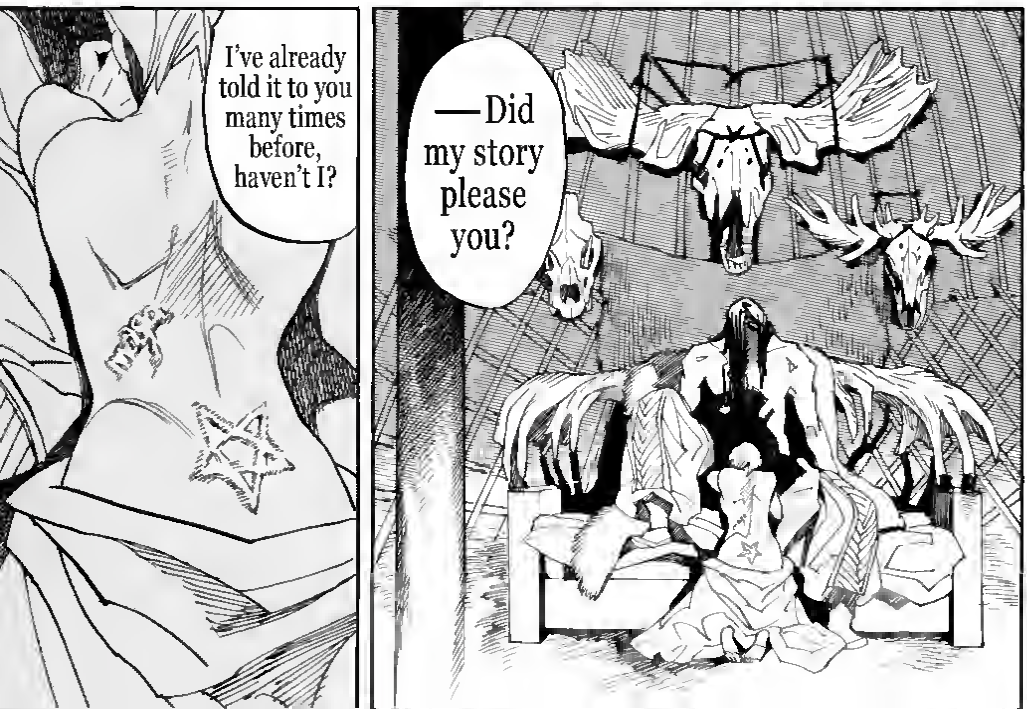

... Sha-kira.

You've even corrupted me...
You've corrupted even me...!



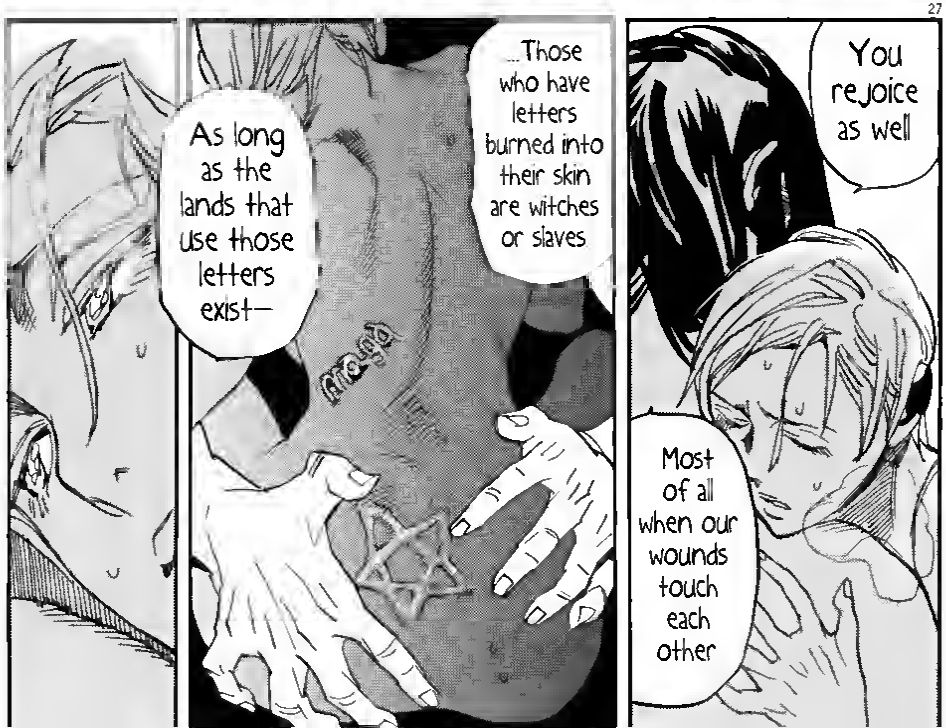


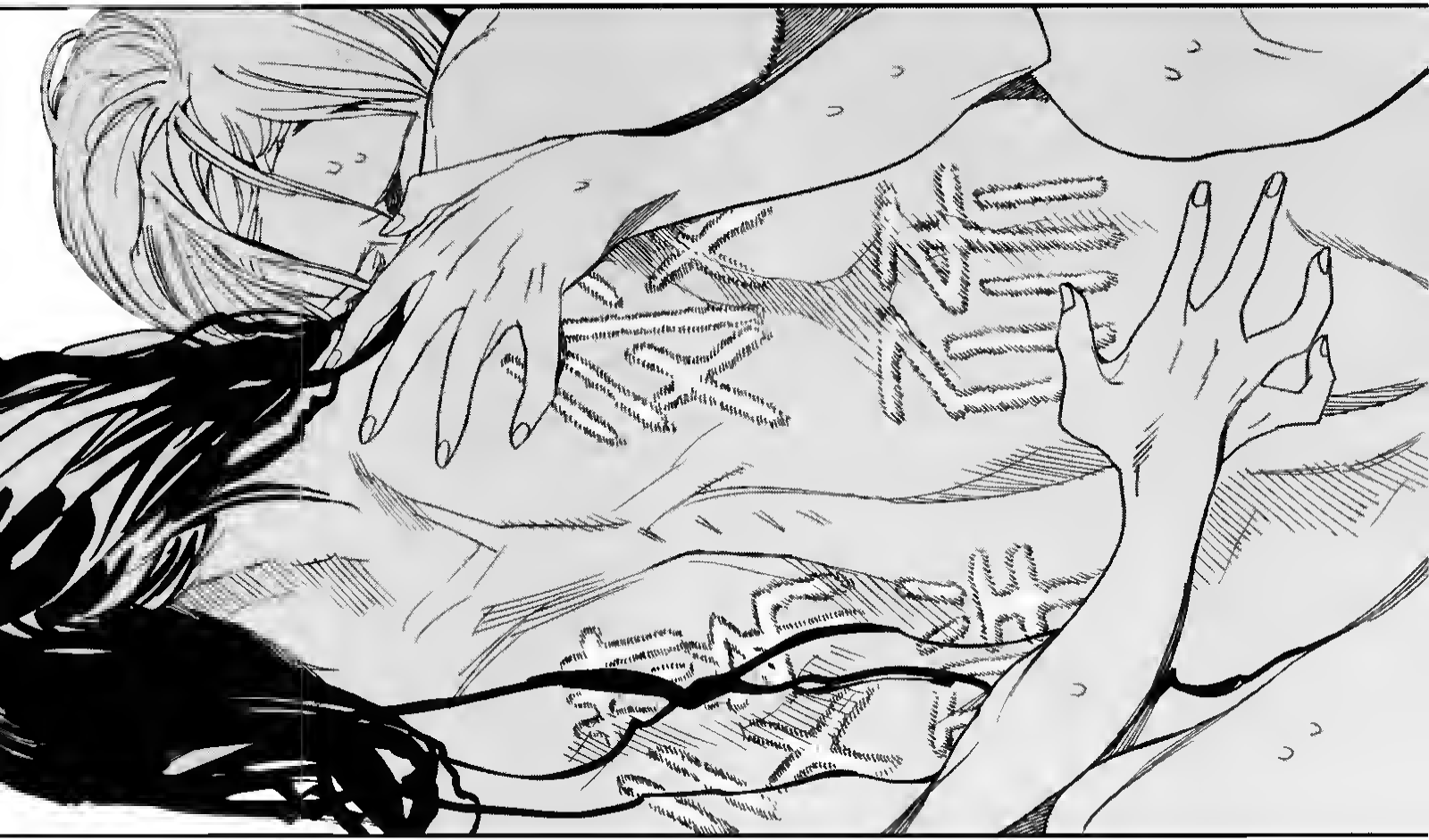



I've already told it to you many times before, haven't I?
—Did my story please you?

—A mighty king in the farthest east...
He isn't Christian, and his aim isn't El Salem.
This story of a land I've never seen. West of the Western Xia.
I want it.
Sha-kira ...
No matter if they belong to enemies, allies, or women.
Veronika. It is interesting to ask after the history of wounds.
The people who burned you will die in the same fire.

He'll burn up those Western lands.
My Presbyter Johannes
I


As long as the lands that use those letters exist—
...Those who have letters burned into their skin are witches or slaves
You rejoice as well
Most of all when our wounds touch each other



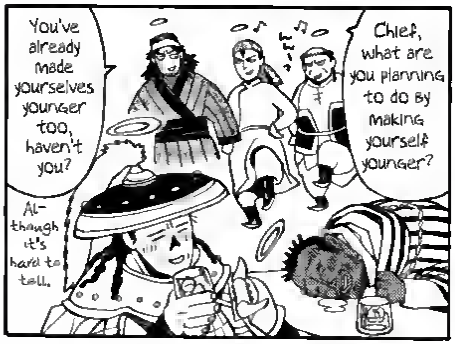
[Shut Hell] continues in volume 5 ……

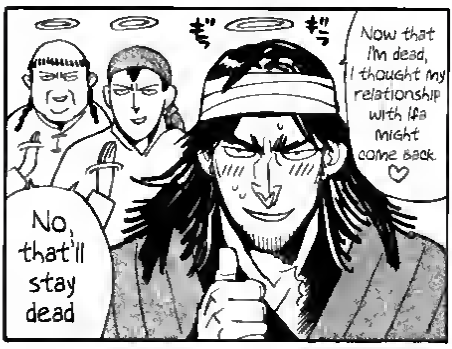
【手伝ってくれた人々】
井口文枝
黒瀬浩介
松山由希
前嶋重機
渡邉忠司

【感 謝】
荒川慎太郎(東京外国語大学アジア・アフリカ言語文化研究所准教授)
佐藤貴保(新潟大学超域研究機構准教授)

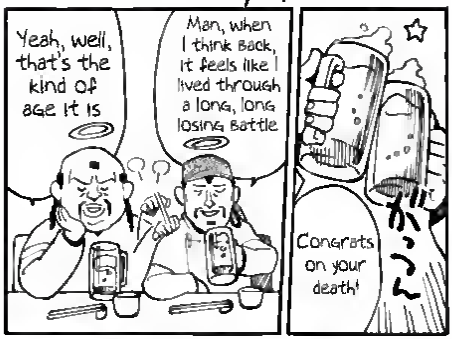
【装 幀】
孝橋淳二

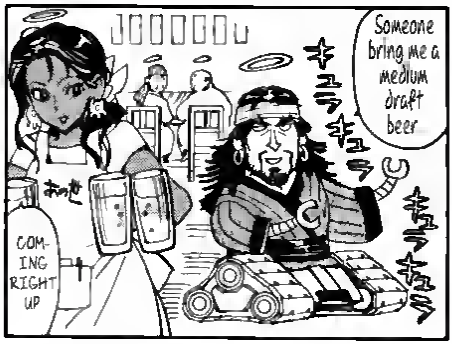
Come Back My Sam


You've already made yourselves younger too, haven't you?
Chief, what are you planning to do by making yourself younger?
Al-though it's hard to tell.

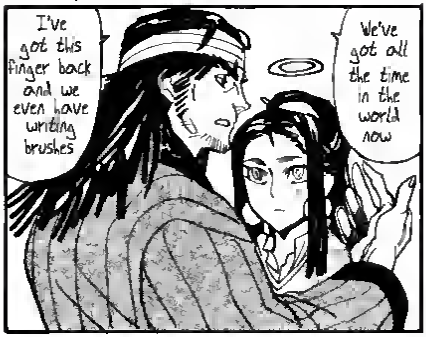


Izakaya Afterlife

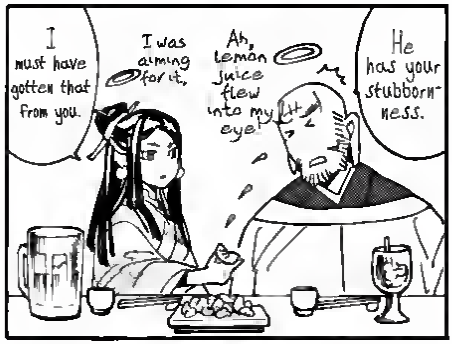

Yeah, well, that's the kind of age it is
Man, when I think back, it feels like I lived through a long, long losing battle
Congrats on your death!



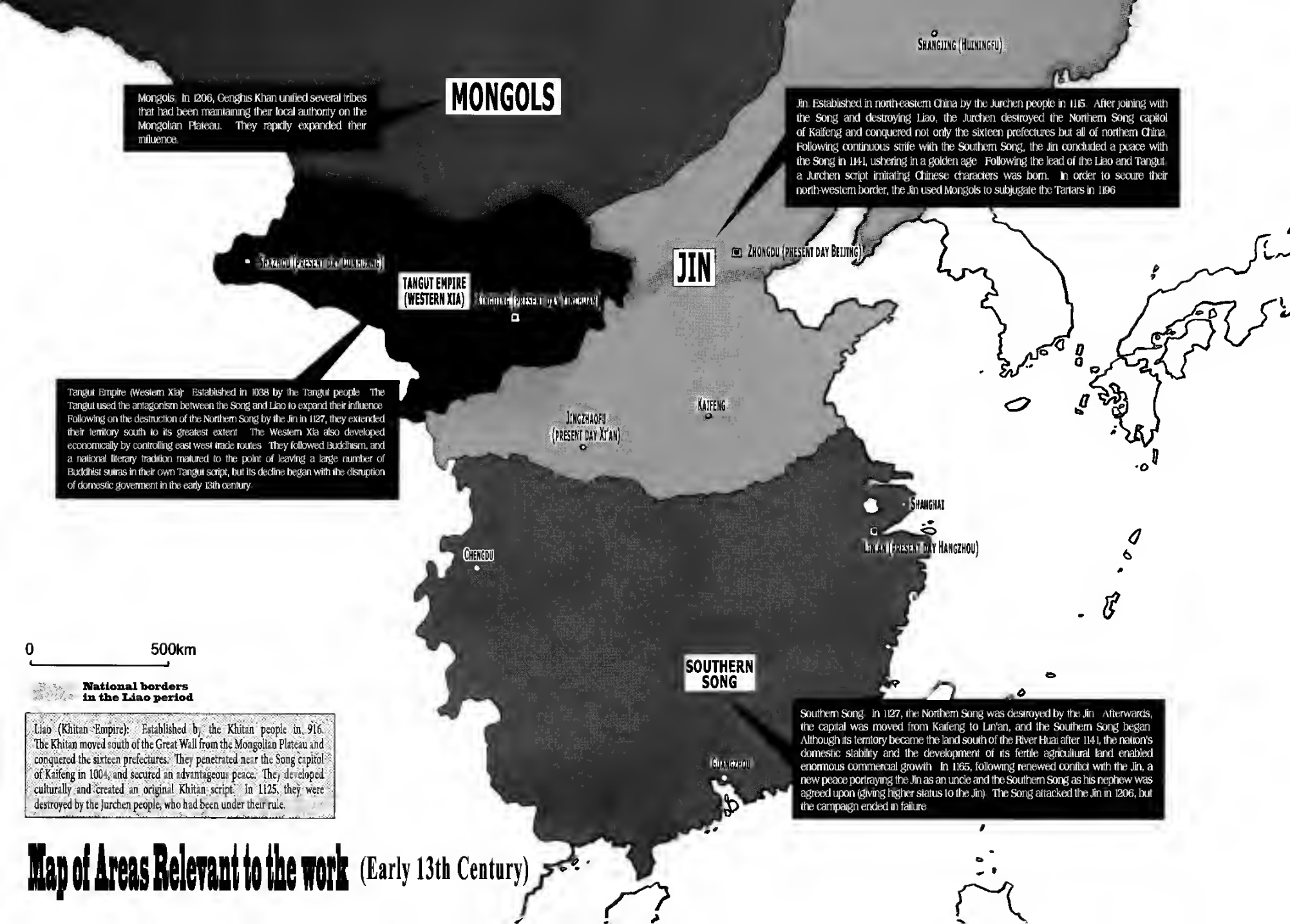
Happily Ever After in the Next World



Aim for the Eyes



Of course.
Didn't you say you and Ifa are on bad terms before you died?
She only talked about her family buried herself in books, and never looked at me.


MONGOLS
Mongols: In 1206, Genghis Khan unified several tribes that had been maintaining their local authority on the Mongolian Plateau. They rapidly expanded their influence.
Jin: Established in north-eastern China by the Jurchen people in 1115. After joining with the Song and destroying Liao, the Jurchen destroyed the Northern Song capitol of Kaifeng and conquered not only the sixteen prefectures but all of northern China. Following continuous strife with the Southern Song, the Jin concluded a peace with the Song in 1141, ushering in a golden age. Following the lead of the Liao and Tangut, a Jurchen script imitating Chinese characters was born. In order to secure their north-western border, the Jin used Mongols to subjugate the Tartars in 1196
SHANGJING (HUININGFU)
JIN
ZHONGDU (PRESENT DAY BEIJING)
TANGUT EMPIRE (WESTERN XIA)
Tangut Empire (Western Xia): Established in 1038 by the Tangut people. The Tangut used the antagonism between the Song and Liao to expand their influence. Following on the destruction of the Northern Song by the Jin in 1127, they extended their territory south to its greatest extent. The Western Xia also developed economically by controlling east west trade routes. They followed Buddhism, and a national literary tradition matured to the point of leaving a large number of Buddhist sutras in their own Tangut script, but its decline began with the disruption of domestic government in the early 13th century.
KAIFENG
JINGZHAOFU (PRESENT DAY XI'AN)
SHANGHAI
LIN'AN (PRESENT DAY HANGZHOU)
CHENGDU
SOUTHERN SONG
Southern Song: In 1127, the Northern Song was destroyed by the Jin. Afterwards, the capital was moved from Kaifeng to Lin'an, and the Southern Song began. Although its territory became the land south of the River Huai after 1141, the nation's domestic stability and the development of its fertile agricultural land enabled enormous commercial growth. In 1165, following renewed conflict with the Jin, a new peace portraying the Jin as an uncle and the Southern Song as his nephew was agreed upon (giving higher status to the Jin). The Song attacked the Jin in 1206, but the campaign ended in failure.
0
500km
National borders in the Liao period
Liao (Khitan Empire): Established by the Khitan people in 916. The Khitan moved south of the Great Wall from the Mongolian Plateau and conquered the sixteen prefectures. They penetrated near the Song capitol of Kaifeng in 1004, and secured an advantageous peace. They developed culturally and created an original Khitan script. In 1125, they were destroyed by the Jurchen people, who had been under their rule.

Map of Areas Relevant to the work (Early 13th Century)

シュトヘル4

ビッグ スピリッツ コミックス スペシャル

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